

An Atlas of Monthly Mean Distributions of SSMI Surface Wind Speed, ARGOS Buoy Drift, AVHRR/2 Sea Surface Temperature, and ECMWF Surface Wind Components During 1991

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ABSTRACT

The following monthly mean global distributions for 1991 are presented with a common color scale and geographical map: 10-m height wind speed estimated from the Special Sensor Microwave Imager (SSMI) on a United States (U.S.) Air Force Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) spacecraft; sea surface temperature estimated from the advanced very high resolution radiometer (AVHRR/2) on a U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) spacecraft; Cartesian components of free-drifting buoys which are tracked by the ARGOS navigation system on NOAA satellites; and Cartesian components of the 10-m height wind vector computed by the European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF). Charts of monthly mean value, sampling distribution, and standard deviation value are displayed. Annual mean distributions are displayed.

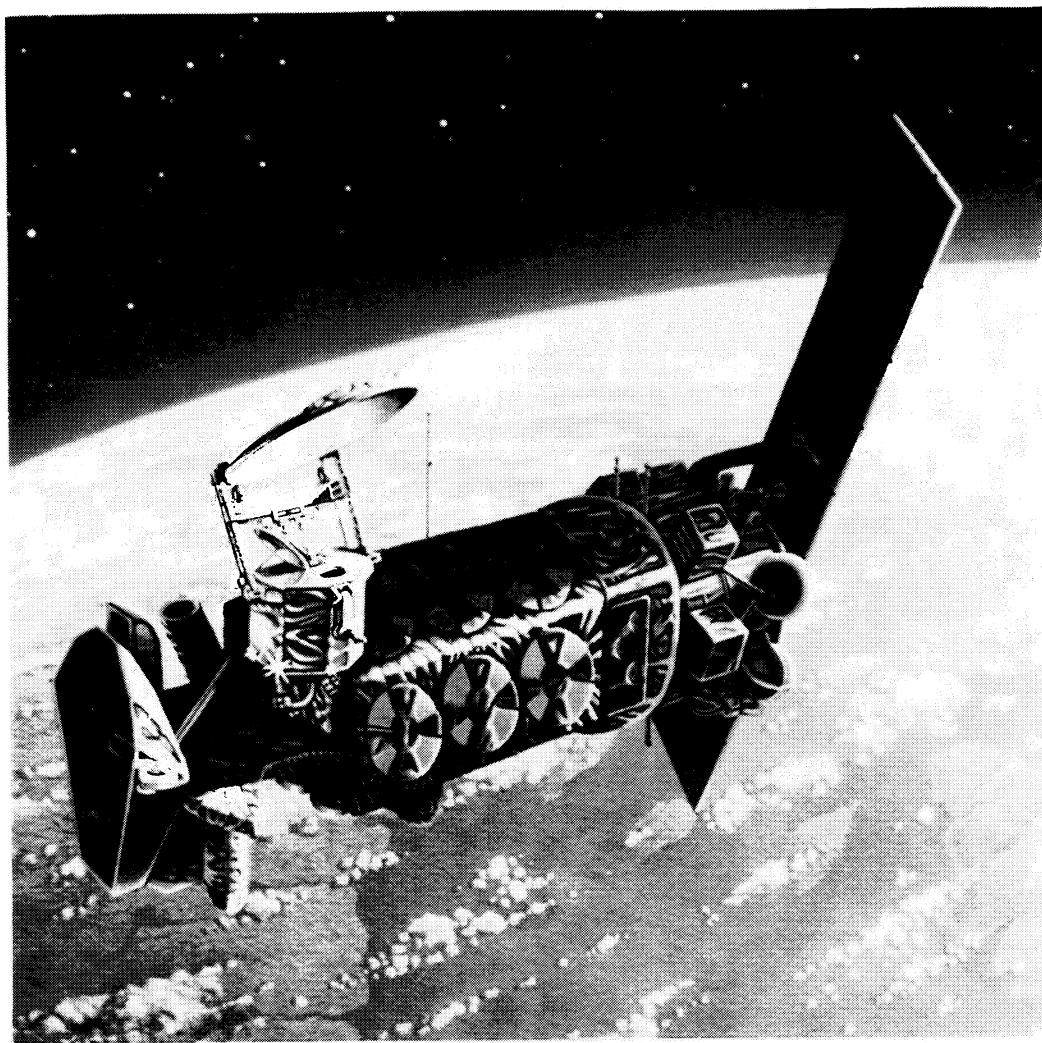


Plate 1. Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) satellite with Special Sensor Microwave Imager (SSMI) located at the upper left. (Courtesy of Elena Lobl, Hughes Aircraft Company, Los Angeles.)

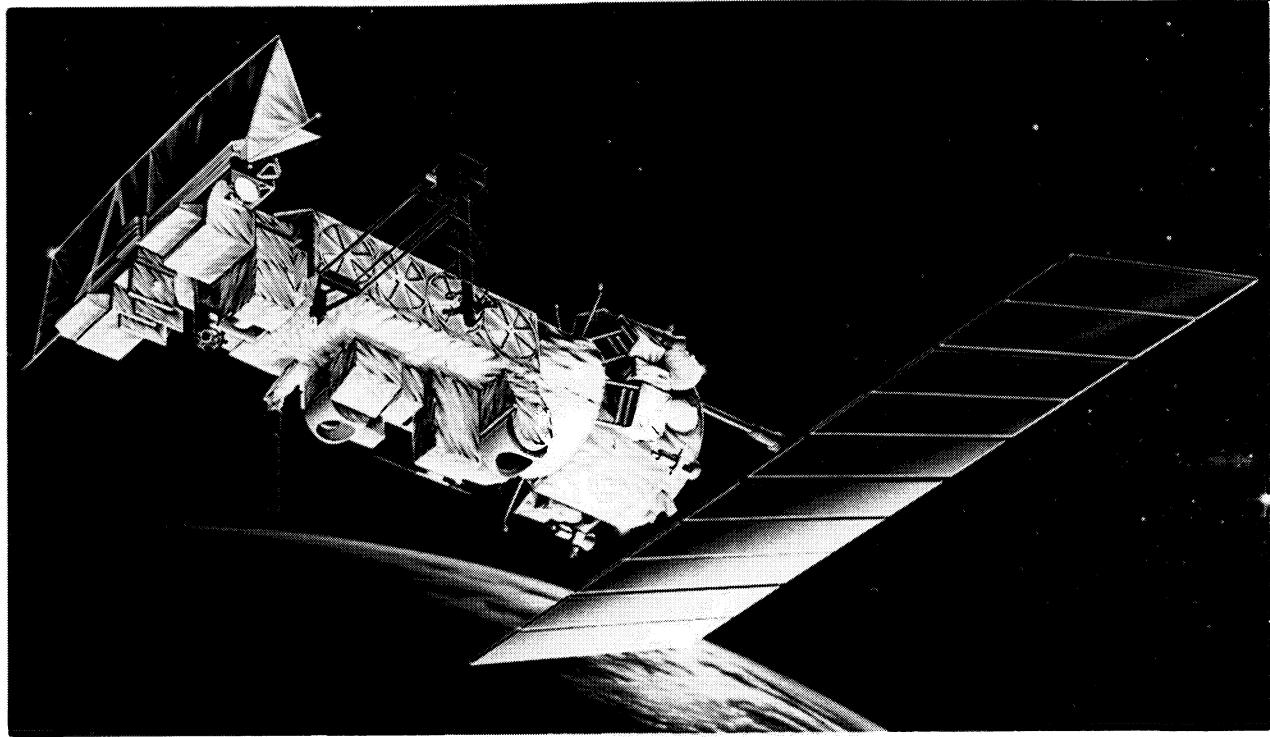


Plate 2. NOAA-11 spacecraft. (Courtesy of Michael Cummings, GE Aerospace, Princeton.)

1 INTRODUCTION

This is the fifth volume of a series of annual summaries (Halpern *et al.*, 1991, 1992a, 1992b, 1993) of monthly mean global distributions of surface oceanographic variables.

Progress in climate research depends on the availability of a variety of geophysical data sets to describe the boundary conditions and forcing functions of the climate system. The importance of long-period global data sets is highlighted in the United States (U.S.) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Earth Observing System (EOS) and the U.S. Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences (CEES) Global Change Research Program. The unique perspective from space provides the opportunity for observations well suited for the global ocean, which is an essential component of the climatic system and which remains severely undersampled.

Stommel and Fieux (1978), in their guide to oceanographic atlases, stated that "the oceanographic atlas is one of the main tools of the oceanographer." Because of the scarcity of oceanographic data, very few atlases cover the world ocean, and none provide monthly mean distributions for a particular year. Several years of monthly mean data are necessary to analyze the seasonal cycle and interannual variations.

Since about ten years ago, substantial advances in remote and *in situ* techniques to record temperature, sea level, horizontal current, and surface wind have helped define annual cycles and interannual variations. Innovative ideas of how the ocean and atmosphere are coupled together occurred in parallel with new instrumentation. Analyses of monthly mean global distributions of surface oceanographic variables are becoming *de rigueur*.

Although both satellite- and ground-based recording systems provide essential information for global climate studies, satellite-borne instrumentation yields unprecedented spatial and temporal coverage of the global ocean. This report contains monthly mean distributions for 1991 of satellite measurements of surface wind speed, sea surface temperature, and drifting-buoy positions. Very little averaging or interpolation of the data was made in order to retain the sampling characteristics of each data set. The report also displays surface wind vector components, which were computed by a numerical forecast-analysis system.

Data presented in Appendices A2, A5, and A7 are available on magnetic tape from the Physical Oceanography Distributed Active Archive Center, M/S 300-323, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, CA 91109.

2 DATA PROCESSING

2.1 SSMI Wind Speed

The Special Sensor Microwave Imager (SSMI) is a 7-channel, 4-frequency, linearly polarized, passive microwave radiometer flown on the U.S. Air Force's Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) F8 spacecraft in a circular sun-synchronous near-polar orbit at an altitude of approximately 860 km and an orbit period of 102.0 min. The orbit has an ascending (south-to-north) equatorial crossing at 0613 local time. The SSMI was launched on 7 July 1987 and is the first of a series of about ten; the second SSMI was launched on a DMSP satellite in December 1990. Data from only the first SSMI are used. The nearly 1400-km swath of SSMI produces complete coverage between 87°36'S to 87°36'N every 3 days. Each of the 7 separate passive radiometers measures naturally occurring microwave emissions from land, water and ice surfaces and from the intervening atmosphere. The SSMI receives both vertical and horizontal linearly polarized radiation at 19.3, 37.0 and 85.5 GHz and vertical only at 22.2 GHz.

2.1.1 Microwave Radiometer Measurement

The emitted microwave radiation at the ocean surface is affected by roughness of the sea surface, which is correlated with the near-surface wind speed. Wentz (1989) prepared the SSMI surface wind speed data product used in this report. Attenuation of 37-GHz radiation propagating

from the sea surface to the satellite is very small, except when an appreciable amount of rain in the atmosphere scatters the 37-GHz radiation. The Wentz (1989) algorithm relates wind speed at 19.5-m height (w , $m s^{-1}$) to the 37-GHz brightness temperatures, which are computed from the SSMI 37-GHz horizontal and vertical polarized radiance measurements, and to the radiative transfer and absorption between the sea surface and SSMI. The horizontal and vertical polarized (denoted by superscript "h" and "v" for horizontal and vertical, respectively) 37-GHz brightness temperatures (T_B^h , T_B^v) are defined by (Wentz, 1983):

$$T_B^h = T_{Bu} + \tau(E^h T_s + (1-E^h)(1+\omega^h w)(T_{Bd} + \tau T_{B-cold})) \quad (1a)$$

$$T_B^v = T_{Bu} + \tau(E^v T_s + (1-E^v)(1+\omega^v w)(T_{Bd} + \tau T_{B-cold})), \quad (1b)$$

where T_{Bu} is the upwelling brightness temperature (K) caused by atmospheric emission and absorption, T_{Bd} is the downwelling brightness temperature (K) produced by atmospheric emission and absorption, (E^h , E^v) are the emissivities of the sea surface for 37-GHz electromagnetic radiation scattering at the sea surface, τ is atmospheric transmittance along the viewing path between the sea surface and SSMI, T_{B-cold} is the 37-GHz cold brightness temperature of cosmic background radiation and equals 2.8 K, and T_s is the sea surface temperature (K).

The upward and downward atmospheric brightness temperatures for a non-scattering atmosphere are (Wentz, 1992)

$$T_{Bu} = (1 - \tau)(T_a - 14.6)$$

$$T_{Bd} = (1 - \tau)(T_a - 13.0),$$

where T_a is the surface air temperature (K). Let the air temperature at the sea surface equal the sea surface temperature, *i.e.*, $T_a = T_s$, and let T_s be specified by Reynolds' (1982) climatological-mean monthly, 1° -latitude \times 1° -longitude sea surface temperature analysis.

Sea surface emissivities (E^h , E^v) are given by

$$(E^h, E^v) = (E_o^h, E_o^v) + (\Delta E_o^h, \Delta E_o^v) + (b^h, b^v)[w(\theta - 49)],$$

where (E_o^h , E_o^v) are emissivities for a specular or perfectly flat sea surface, (ΔE_o^h , ΔE_o^v) account for changes in emissivities because of occurrences of surface roughness and foam, (b^h , b^v)[$w(\theta - 49)$] account for changes in incidence angle θ of the SSMI radiometer, and (b^h , b^v) are wind-induced emissivity coefficients. Table 1 contains values of (b^h , b^v). Microwave radiation at frequencies above 10 GHz is only weakly sensitive to salinity changes (Maul, 1985), and the specular emissivity for an ocean surface of constant salinity of 35 PSU is (Wentz, 1992)

$$E_o^h = (s_0^h + s_1^h t + s_2^h t^2 + s_3^h t^3 + s_4^h u + s_5^h tu + s_6^h u^2 + s_7^h t^2 u)/T_s$$

Table 1

Parameters used by Wentz (1989) to calculate SSMI wind speed from 37-GHz horizontal and vertical polarized radiance measurements.

Symbol	Parameter	Unit	V-polarization	H-polarization
b	Wind-induced emissivity coefficient	$s m^{-1} \text{ degree}^{-1}$	-1.193×10^{-4}	1.052×10^{-4}
m_1	Wind-induced emissivity coefficient	$s m^{-1}$	0.70×10^{-3}	4.10×10^{-3}
m_2	Wind-induced emissivity coefficient	$s m^{-1}$	2.50×10^{-3}	7.30×10^{-3}
ω	Surface scattering coefficient	$s m^{-1}$	3.52×10^{-3}	8.55×10^{-3}
s_1	Specular emissivity coefficient	none	-5.637×10^{-1}	-6.171×10^{-1}
s_2	Specular emissivity coefficient	K^{-1}	1.481×10^{-2}	1.437×10^{-2}
s_3	Specular emissivity coefficient	K^{-2}	-2.96×10^{-5}	-7.07×10^{-5}
s_4	Specular emissivity coefficient	$K \text{ degree}^{-1}$	2.123	-1.701
s_5	Specular emissivity coefficient	degree^{-1}	1.17×10^{-2}	0.55×10^{-2}
s_6	Specular emissivity coefficient	$K \text{ degree}^{-2}$	4.1×10^{-2}	-1.9×10^{-2}
s_7	Specular emissivity coefficient	$K^{-1} \text{ degree}^{-1}$	-0.71×10^{-4}	-1.27×10^{-4}

$$E_o^v = (s_0^v + s_1^v t + s_2^v t^2 + s_3^v t^3 + s_4^v u + s_5^v tu + s_6^v u^2 + s_7^v t^2 u) / T_s$$

and

$$t = T_s - 273.16$$

$$u = \theta - 51.$$

Table 1 contains values of (s_i^h, s_i^v) , where $i = 0$ to 7. The incidence angle is computed from the geometry of the DMSP/SSMI orbit. Wind-forced variations of emissivities are given by (Wentz *et al.*, 1986)

$$(\Delta E_o^h, \Delta E_o^v) = (m_1^h, m_1^v) w, \quad \text{for } w \leq 7 \text{ m s}^{-1},$$

$$(\Delta E_o^h, \Delta E_o^v) = (m_1^h, m_1^v) w + c^{-1} [(m_2^h, m_2^v) - (m_1^h, m_1^v)] (w - 7)^2, \quad \text{for } 7 < w < 17 \text{ m s}^{-1},$$

$$(\Delta E_o^h, \Delta E_o^v) = (m_2^h, m_2^v) w - d [(m_2^h, m_2^v) - (m_1^h, m_1^v)], \quad \text{for } w \geq 17 \text{ m s}^{-1}.$$

The constants c ($= 20 \text{ m s}^{-1}$) and d ($= 12 \text{ m s}^{-1}$) provide continuity between the segments of $(\Delta E_o^h, \Delta E_o^v)$. The coefficients (m_1^h, m_1^v) and (m_2^h, m_2^v) are listed in Table 1.

The two unknowns, w and τ , in equations (1a) and (1b) are determined by Newton's iteration method. "First-guess" values for w and τ are 8 m s^{-1} and 0.8, respectively, which represent typical values over the ocean. Convergence is defined when the difference between successive iterations of w becomes less than 0.05 m s^{-1} . Convergence is usually found after 3 to 5 iterations. If convergence is not reached after 10 iterations, then the measured brightness temperatures (T_B^h, T_B^v) are considered erroneous or caused by heavy rain.

SSMI wind speeds referenced to 10-m height, which are equal to 94.3% of w (Wentz, 1989), are used in the report.

2.1.2 Environmental Corrections

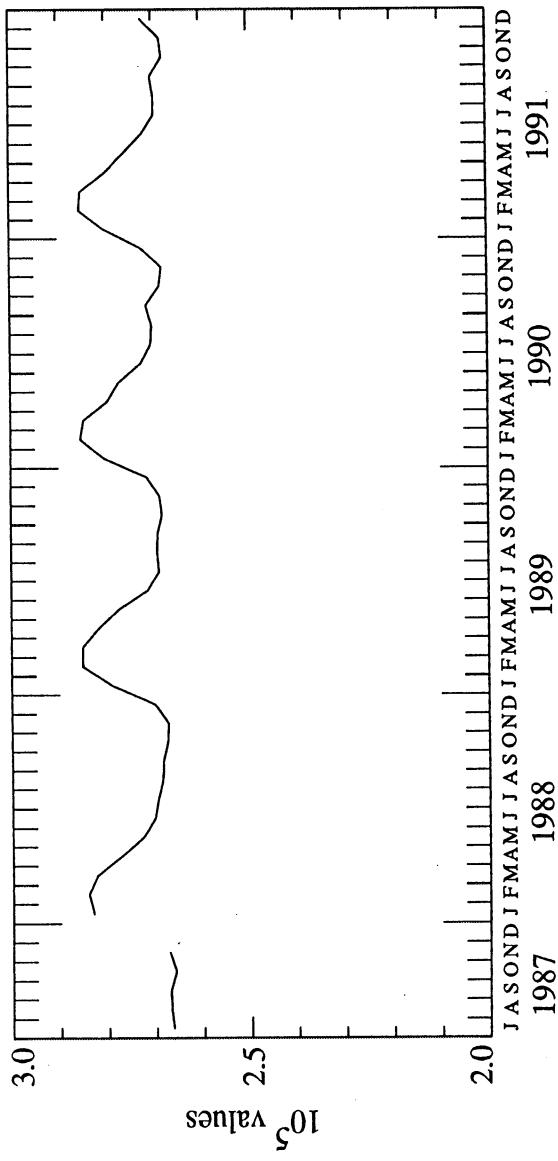
Environmental conditions reduce the amount of emitted radiation measured at the satellite. At 37 GHz, microwave emission from the ocean surface is masked by the emission and attenuation characteristics of rain. If the integrated liquid water content throughout the atmosphere is greater than 0.25 kg m^{-2} , then the Wentz (1989) algorithm is considered invalid because there would be too much radiative scattering from water droplets. Brightness temperatures measured within about 100 km of land, which is defined with a geographical data base, are not used to estimate surface wind speed because the emissivity of land is very different from that of water. For the same reason, surface wind speed within 200 km of the climatological-mean monthly position of the ice edge was not used in the report.

2.1.3 $1/3^\circ \times 1/3^\circ$ Gridded Monthly Data Set

The Wentz (1989) data set contains wind speed values in nonoverlapping areas of $25 \text{ km} \times 25 \text{ km}$, which are arrayed across the 1394-km SSMI swath width. Geographical coordinates are provided at the center of each 25-km \times 25-km region. SSMI wind speeds within nonoverlapping $1/3^\circ \times 1/3^\circ$ squares were arithmetically averaged to form the basic data set for the report. The origin of the global $1/3^\circ \times 1/3^\circ$ grid is 90°N and 0° longitude. Most of the $1/3^\circ \times 1/3^\circ$ areas contained at least 50 wind speed values per month, or about 1 - 2 values per day. For each month, the standard deviation of daily-averaged SSMI surface wind speeds was computed for $1/3^\circ \times 1/3^\circ$ areas.

The total number of $1/3^\circ \times 1/3^\circ$ monthly-averaged SSMI wind speeds displayed an annual cycle (Figure 1A). A maximum occurred each year during Southern Hemisphere summer when the ice cover around Antarctica was at a minimum. Each $1/3^\circ \times 1/3^\circ$ SSMI wind speed represented the arithmetic mean of several values. The total number of individual SSMI values was low in July 1987 and January 1988 (Figure 1B) because the instrument was not operated the whole of both months. The December 1987 data ended on 4 December because of a 40-day off-period to avoid possible damage to the SSMI by increased solar heating of the bearing and power transfer assembly (Hollinger *et al.*, 1990). During subsequent winters, the DMSP spacecraft solar arrays were repositioned and the SSMI was not turned off. The F8 SSMI data set terminated on 18 December 1991; thus, there are a smaller number of SSMI retrievals in December compared to those of previous months (Figure 1B).

(A) Number of Data Grid-Points per Monthly Global Distribution of SSMI 10-m Height Wind Speed



(B) Total Number of 25 km x 25 km Data Values per Monthly Global Distribution of SSMI 10-m Height Wind Speed

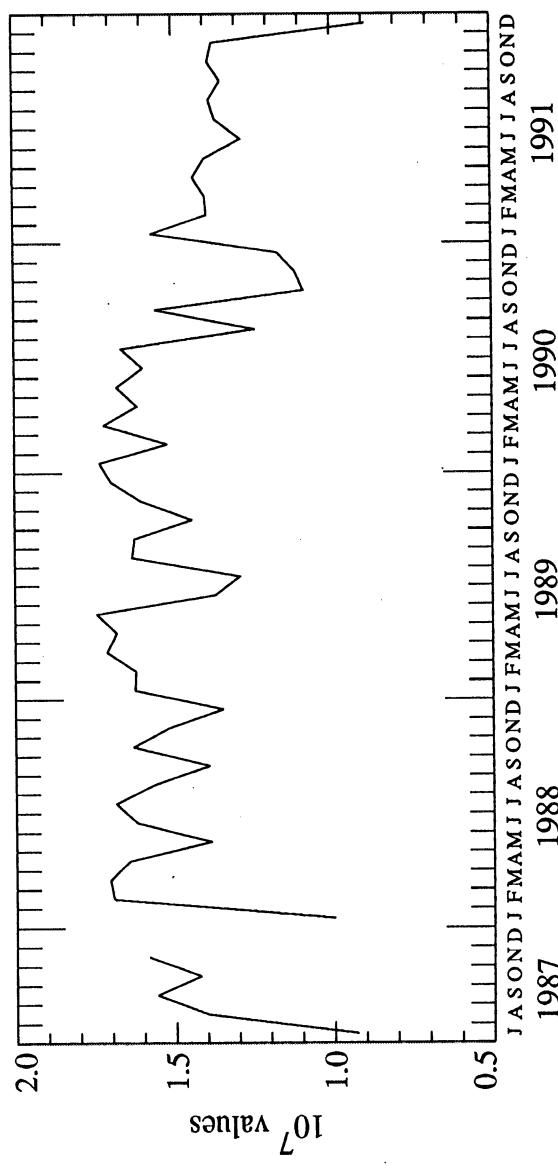


Figure 1. Time series of monthly totals of (A) number of pixels or picture elements and (B) number of 10-m height wind speeds.

2.1.4 Wind Speed Accuracy

The SSMI accuracy specification for wind speed retrievals under rain-free conditions is ± 2 m s $^{-1}$ rms over the range 3 - 25 m s $^{-1}$. Wentz (1992) compared SSMI wind speeds with a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Data Buoy Center moored buoy wind data set prepared by Goodberlet *et al.* (1990), and found differences of zero bias and 1.6 m s $^{-1}$ rms. Model functions different than Wentz' (1989) physically-based algorithm exist. The Environmental Research and Technology (ERT) algorithm for SSMI surface wind speed did not meet the accuracy specification (Goodberlet *et al.*, 1990). Bates' (1991) statistical algorithm with brightness temperatures from five SSMI channels had a 1.1 m s $^{-1}$ bias and a 1.8 m s $^{-1}$ rms difference with moored buoy wind measurements at four sites from 5°S to 5°N along 165°E.

2.2 ARGOS Buoy Drift

Since the late 1970s free-drifting buoys have been tracked throughout the world ocean by ARGOS, which is the French navigation system on NOAA polar orbiting satellites. The number of ARGOS-tracked drifting buoys has increased substantially during the past few years because of numerous scientific investigations regarding the role of ocean currents in climate variability (Paduan and Niiler, 1991) and because international weather services continue to require barometric pressure measurements in large areas of the global ocean where few ships travel. ARGOS buoy drift data first appeared in the 1989 atlas (Halpern *et al.*, 1992b) because the number of drifting buoys was considered sufficient for a global perspective.

Canada's Marine Environmental Data Service (MEDS), which is a Responsible National Oceanographic Data Center (RNODEC) for Drifting Buoy Data, continuously acquires ARGOS-tracked drifting-buoy positions transmitted in real time via the Global Telecommunications System (GTS) and receives time-delay data. Throughout 1991 MEDS received real-time position data from approximately 50% of the nearly 650 drifting buoys (MEDS, 1992). Approximately 17% of the 474,000 drifter reports received by MEDS via the GTS are restricted from distribution (R. Wilson, personal communication, 1993) and are not contained in the atlas. MEDS continuously updates their archive because investigators submit additional drifting buoy data months and even years after the recorded time of the buoy's position. No time-delay buoy drift data for 1991 had been added to the MEDS archive by April 1993 when the 1991 drifting-buoy data set was acquired from MEDS.

2.2.1 Buoy Drift Measurements

ARGOS positions are determined with an accuracy of about 0.5 km. Approximately 5 ARGOS positions of drifting buoys were determined during a transmission day. ARGOS transmission days were not continuous. In the tropical Pacific Ocean a transmission day usually occurred at 3-day intervals and in the Southern Ocean the transmission was approximately daily.

The following quality-control procedure was used. First, drifting buoy data were separated from other data on the MEDS magnetic tapes, which contain Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) - World Meteorological Organization (WMO) coded data for drifting buoys, moored buoys, sailing boats, whales, and other objects not classified as drifting buoys. Only drifting buoy data indicated by MEDS to be of high quality were used. Data were eliminated when the position did not change throughout the month. When the beginning of a buoy's data set indicated a speed between successive positions greater than 2.5 m s $^{-1}$, the positions were deleted because the buoy was assumed to be operational while on a moving ship. Calculation of monthly mean Cartesian components of buoy drift required at least 20 days of position data per month. If the buoy positions at the beginning or end of a month were located poleward of 65°, the buoy was likely to be influenced by ice and was eliminated from the composite data set. If the average of all successive speeds within a month was less than 0.01 m s $^{-1}$ or if the monthly averaged zonal and meridional distances moved by a buoy were less than 8 km, the buoy was eliminated from the

composite data set. The average monthly number of drifting buoys in the usable data set was 145, which was nearly 50 drifting buoys per month less than that in 1990 (Halpern *et al.*, 1993). The number of usable drifting buoys per month is listed in Figure 2.

For each buoy in the usable data set, the monthly mean displacement vector was computed from the first and last recorded positions. Accordingly, the monthly mean buoy drift vector was equal to the displacement vector divided by the time interval between the first and last positions. Monthly mean east-west (positive eastward) and north-south (positive northward) components of buoy drift are displayed in this report.

2.2.2 Buoy Drift Presentation

A line of arbitrary thickness, which is color coded to represent the speed of the buoy drift, is drawn between the first and last positions of the month. The range of drift speeds was very large compared to the already-defined color code with a limited number of contour intervals. Unlike the color codes used to present SSMI wind speed (§ 2.1) and AVHRR/2 MCSST (§ 2.3), which displayed virtually all data values, the buoy drift color code does not represent drift speeds greater than 0.4 m s^{-1} in the east-west direction and 0.2 m s^{-1} in the north-south direction. During several months the maximum zonal and meridional components of buoy drift speeds were greater than the limits specified by the color code (Figure 2); fortunately, when this occurred the large drift speeds were confined to small geographical regions, such as the Gulf Stream.

2.2.3 Interpretation of Buoy Drift

Large uncertainties are associated with interpretation of successive positions of a freely drifting buoy as a current vector at a specified depth. A variety of drifting buoys existed in the ocean during 1991 and there are fundamental differences between the behavior of each buoy in similar environmental conditions. The configuration of a drifter system greatly influences its drift (Niiler *et al.*, 1987; Geyer, 1989; Brügge and Dengg, 1991). The depth of the drogue, which is typically less than 25 m and as deep as 120 m (Thomson *et al.*, 1990), influences the buoy drift (Bitterman and Hansen, 1989). The MEDS drifting buoy data set for 1991 indicated no drogues were attached to any buoys. However, some buoys, particularly in the tropical Pacific Ocean, contained a drogue at 15-m depth but information about the drogue depth was not transmitted on the GTS (D. Hansen, personal communication, 1992). Many drift buoys in the Southern Ocean had no drogue or contained a 100-m nylon line.

Caution must be exercised in the interpretation of the buoy drift as near-surface current because of the unknown status and quality of the buoy and drogue. A minimum interpretation of the buoy drift diagrams displayed in Appendix A4 is the geographical distribution of ARGOS-tracked drift buoys.

2.3 AVHRR/2 Sea Surface Temperature

The NOAA satellite platforms (called NOAA-j where j is an integer) are in sun-synchronous orbits at altitudes of 833 or 870 km with ascending equatorial crossings at 0730 or 1400 local time. Since the 1981 launch of NOAA-7, odd-numbered NOAA satellites have a five-channel advanced very high resolution radiometer called AVHRR/2. Even-numbered satellites have a four-channel advanced very high resolution radiometer called AVHRR. NOAA-11 was operational in 1991.

The AVHRR/2 scan rate is 360 swaths per min with a total field of view of $\pm 55.4^\circ$ from nadir and with an effective ground resolution of 1.1 km at nadir in five co-registered bands. Two spectral channels are in the visible range (0.58 - 0.68 and 0.725 - 1.1 μm) and three in the infrared range (3.55 - 3.93 (*i. e.*, 3.7) μm , 10.3 - 11.3 (*i. e.*, 11) μm , 11.5 - 12.5 (*i. e.*, 12) μm). The AVHRR/2 Channel 3 data at 3.7 μm on most NOAA-j spacecraft have been very noisy (NOAA-11 being the exception), especially when the satellite is in daylight. The design goal for the noise equivalent differential temperature for each channel was 0.12 K at 300 K (Kidwell, 1991).

1991 ARGOS Monthly Mean Buoy Drift, cm s^{-1}

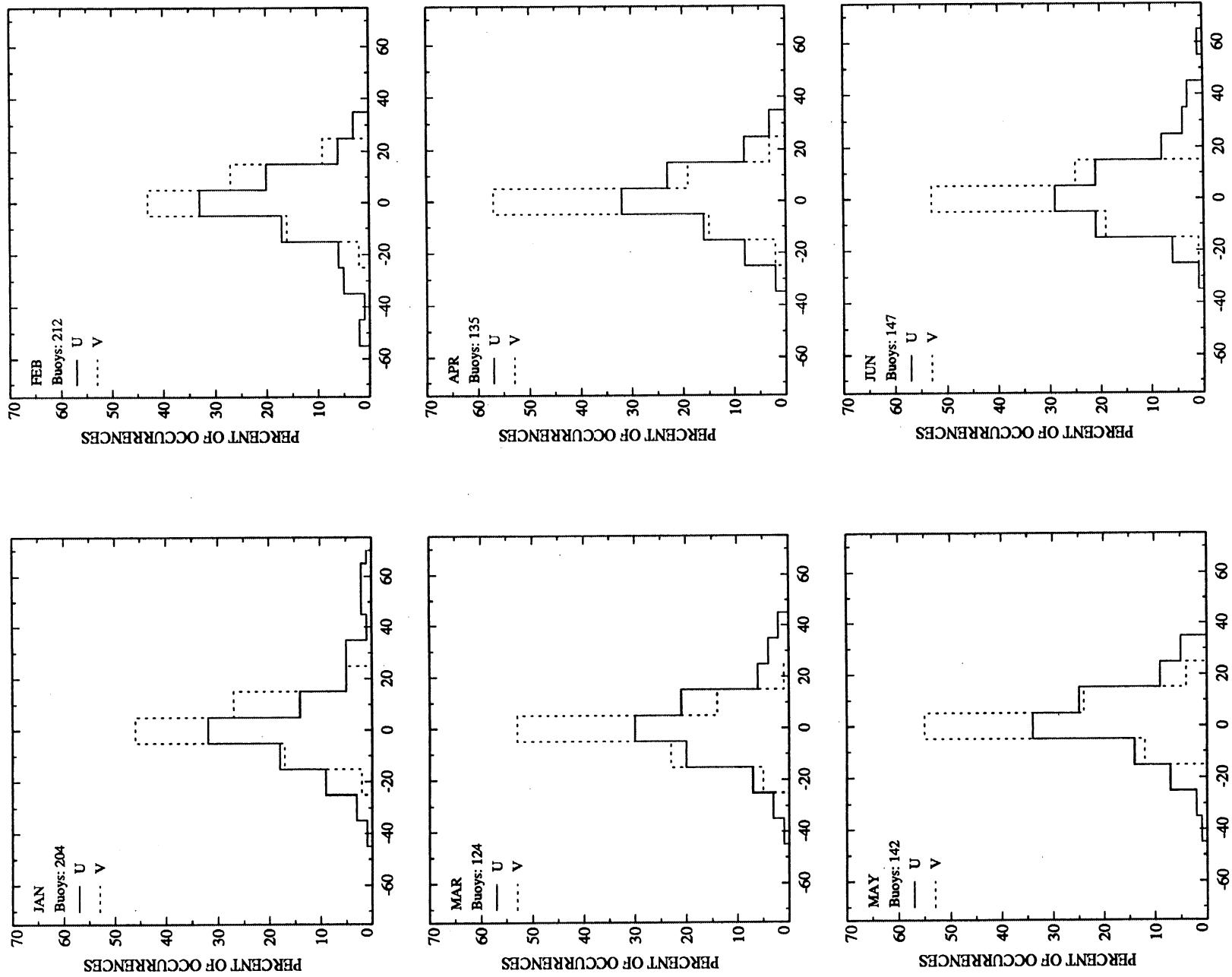
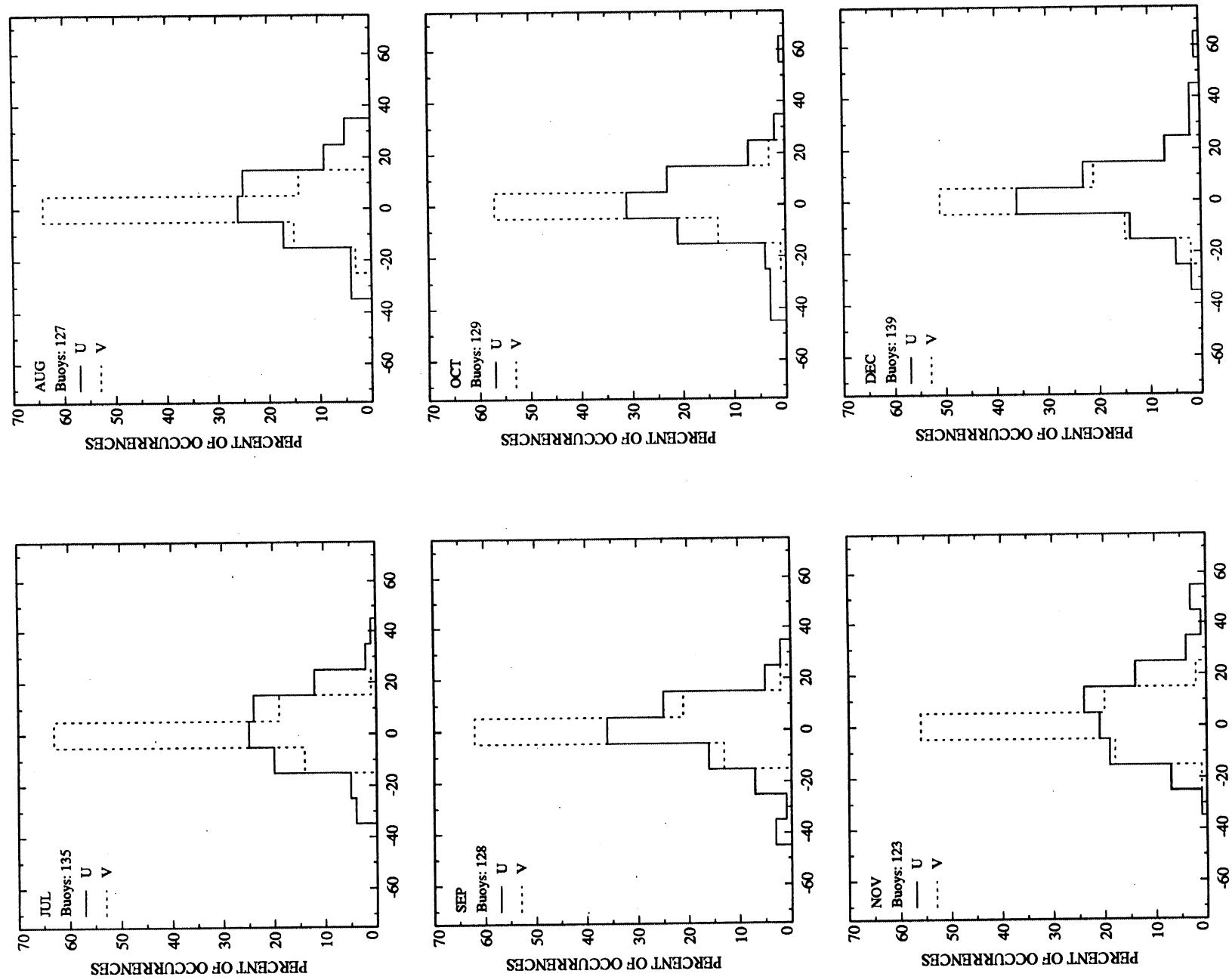


Figure 2. Monthly mean histograms of east-west (U, positive eastward; solid line) and north-south (V, positive northward; dash line) components of ARGOS buoy drift. Number of buoys per month is shown in each panel.

1991 ARGOS Monthly Mean Buoy Drift, cm s⁻¹



2.3.1 Infrared Radiometer Measurement

Infrared radiation received by a satellite radiometer is determined primarily by the sea surface emissivity and temperature and by atmospheric transmittance. Infrared radiation emitted from the ocean surface at wavelengths of about 3.5 - 4.0 μm propagates through a dry atmosphere with little attenuation, while under similar conditions the radiation in the 10 - 12 μm window can have approximately 10 - 15% attenuation (Maul, 1985). Only about 30% of the emitted radiation at 10 - 12 μm is transmitted through a wet atmosphere with 5.5-cm precipitable water. The oceanic emissivity in both spectral bands is approximately constant and close to unity for small zenith angles or nadir viewing. Emissivity changes with zenith angle, but the change from near-unity is small for zenith angles less than 40° (Bramson, 1968). The NOAA AVHRR/2 algorithms assume unit emissivity for all bands and angles. Thus the amount of radiation emitted at the surface can be assumed to be proportional to the sea surface temperature.

Atmospheric absorption of emitted radiation at the AVHRR/2 infrared wavelengths is primarily by water vapor, which occurs in the lower levels of the atmosphere so that the atmosphere is perceived to be optically thin. The transmission of emitted radiation through the atmosphere differs for each AVHRR/2 wavelength so that the difference of satellite-measured radiances at two or more wavelengths is independent of atmospheric absorber concentration. For small cumulative amounts of water vapor in the atmosphere, a linear combination of AVHRR/2 infrared radiation measurements recorded at the satellite yields an estimate of sea surface temperature (SST), which is known as multi-channel sea surface temperature (MCSST) (Maul, 1985; McClain *et al.*, 1985).

This report contains daytime SST data produced operationally by NOAA's National Environmental Satellite and Data Information Service (NESDIS). The procedure to compute the SST was described by McClain *et al.* (1985) and Kidwell (1991). Two operational SST algorithms were used in 1991. From 1 January - 14 April the daytime algorithm was (C. Walton, personal communication, 1993)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SST (C)} = & ((0.19069T_{12} - 49.16) / (0.20524T_{12} - 0.17334T_{11} - 6.78)) \cdot (T_{11} - T_{12} + 0.789) \\ & + 0.92912T_{12} + 0.81(T_{11} - T_{12}) (\text{SEC sza} - 1) - 254.18 \end{aligned}$$

where SST (C) is the sea surface temperature in °C, T_{11} and T_{12} are the brightness temperatures in K computed from radiance measurements at 11 μm (AVHRR/2 Channel 4) and 12 μm (AVHRR/2 Channel 5), respectively, and sza is the satellite zenith angle. From 15 April - 31 December the daytime SST algorithm was (C. Walton, personal communication, 1993)

$$\text{SST (C)} = 0.94649T_{11} + 0.08412T_{\text{FLD}}(T_{11} - T_{12}) + 0.751(T_{11} - T_{12})(\text{SEC sza} - 1) - 257.2$$

where T_{FLD} is the prior day's satellite field analysis temperature in °C.

2.3.2 Environmental Corrections

Major sources of error are water vapor absorption in the lower atmosphere and aerosol extinction. Radiance measurements from only cloud-free areas are processed by NOAA into SSTs. Very conservative cloud tests, which involve various combinations of the visible and infrared AVHRR/2 data, detect clouds so that cloud-free SSTs are computed (McClain *et al.*, 1985); on a typical day, less than 2% of the maximum possible number of SSTs are retained. After the 15 June 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo, the number of satellite retrievals of SST in the tropical zone was greatly reduced and for several months no retrievals occurred throughout the tropics (Reynolds, 1993).

2.3.3 1/3° x 1/3° Gridded 28-Day Data Set

The 1.1-km AVHRR/2 observations are available only within areas containing a downlink ground station to receive high-resolution data transmission or from limited onboard local area coverage (LAC) recordings (\approx 12 minutes per orbit). Global AVHRR/2 measurements have an effective ground resolution of 4 km. A processor on board the NOAA spacecraft generates an average radiance for each channel from four 1.1-km elements within each nonoverlapping group of

five consecutive 1.1-km measurements along a scan. Each daytime SST archived on the NESDIS global area coverage (GAC) data tapes represents the average sea surface temperature within an 8-km x 8-km area, which occurs in a cloud-free environment at a variable spacing ranging from 8 km in the U.S. coastal waters to 25 km in the open ocean. The 8-km x 8-km SSTs are mapped at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (RSMAS) onto a cylindrical equi-rectangular grid of 2048 (longitude) x 1024 (latitude) space-elements (Olson *et al.*, 1988). At the equator the dimensions of each space-element are approximately 18 km x 18 km, and geographical coordinates are assigned to the center of the element. The origin of the grid is 90°N, 180°W. RSMAS produces SSTs averaged over 7 days. For this report, four consecutive 7-day values are arithmetically averaged to form 28-day mean SST values. A 1024 x 512 grid was created by computing the arithmetic mean of four 18-km x 18-km SSTs adjacent to each other in a 2-dimensional array. The average SSTs of 4-element groups, which were independent of each other, represent an approximate 1/3° x 1/3° gridded SST data set.

The February to June 1991 decrease in the number of 1/3° x 1/3° monthly SST pixels was similar to that occurring each year (Figure 3A) and the unusual continuation of the small number of pixels from July to December 1991 (Figure 3A) was caused by the extensive amount of aerosols injected into the tropical atmosphere by Mount Pinatubo on 15 June 1991 (Reynolds, 1993).

The RSMAS SST data set contains the number of 8-km x 8-km values averaged to yield the 2048 x 1024 grid. The total number of 8-km x 8-km SST values per month (Figure 3B) reached its lowest level in 1991 because of Mount Pinatubo aerosols.

2.3.4 Sea Surface Temperature Accuracy

The coefficients used in the NOAA SST algorithm change only as the operational satellite is replaced and on rare occasions when the continuous validation procedure indicates a need for a change. NOAA continuously monitors the performance of the SST data product with satellite-tracked drifting buoy sea surface temperature measurements, which are recorded within 25 km and 4 h of the location of the SST. During 1991, the SST was 0.22°C higher than the *in situ* data and the rms difference was 0.66°C for an average of 556 matchups per month throughout the global ocean (Table 2).

Table 2

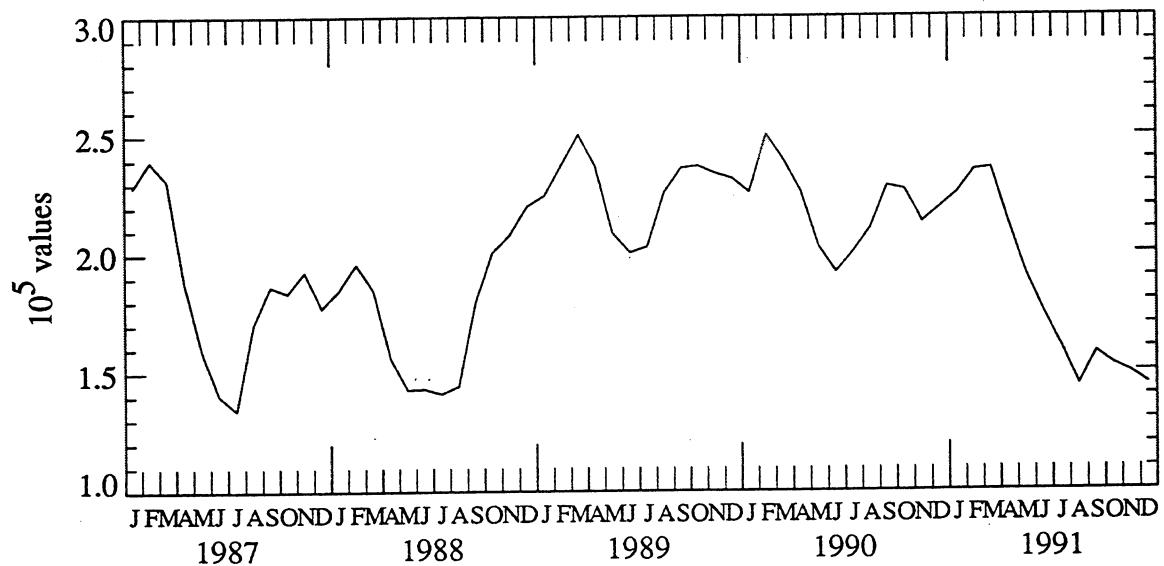
Monthly mean bias and root-mean-square (rms) difference between daytime SST and drifting buoy sea surface temperature (DRIBU SST) global matchups during 1991.

Bias = DRIBU SST - SST.

(Courtesy of C. Walton, NOAA NESDIS)

Month	Number of Matchups	Bias °C	RMS Difference °C
Jan	547	0.14	0.60
Feb	523	0.15	0.61
Mar	646	0.09	0.69
Apr	668	0.04	0.66
May	586	-0.10	0.63
Jun	503	-0.04	0.61
Jul	346	-0.32	0.74
Aug	488	-0.29	0.74
Sep	491	-0.45	0.72
Oct	559	-0.67	0.70
Nov	577	-0.62	0.62
Dec	733	-0.64	0.57

(A) Number of Data Grid-Points per Monthly Global Distribution of AVHRR/2 Sea Surface Temperature



(B) Total Number of Data Values per Monthly Global Distribution of AVHRR/2 Sea Surface Temperature

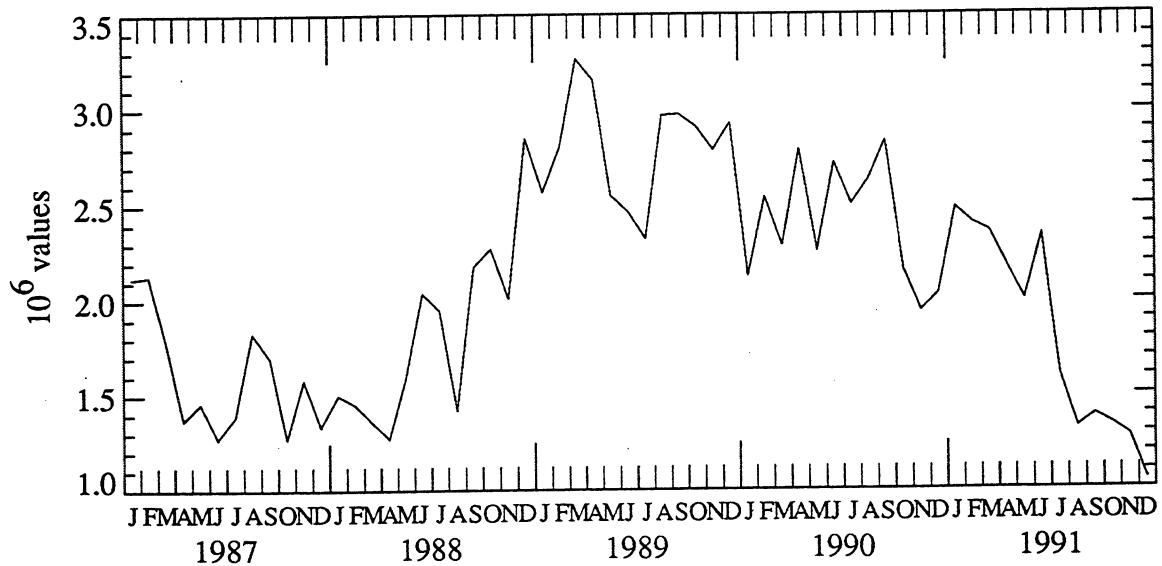


Figure 3. Time series of monthly totals of (A) number of pixels or picture elements and (B) number of sea surface temperatures.

2.4 ECMWF Surface Wind Components

Month-to-month variations of upper ocean circulation are primarily caused by spatial and temporal changes in the surface wind vector: both east-west (u ; positive eastward) and north-south (v ; positive northward) wind components are important. To augment the SSMI scalar surface wind speed data (§2.1), this report contains the Cartesian components of the surface wind field computed by the European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF). The ECMWF data sets from 1 January - 30 June 1991 and 1 July - 31 December 1991 were acquired from ECMWF in September 1991 and July 1992, respectively. The ECMWF forecast-analysis system, like all operational atmospheric general circulation models, is continually being improved.

ECMWF analyses, instead of other model-generated results, are used because Trenberth and Olson (1988) considered them to be the best operational global analyses available for general use. Kalnay *et al.* (1990) showed that ECMWF northern hemisphere daily 1000- and 500-hPa rms height errors of the 1-, 3-, and 5-day forecasts during August 1989 were smaller than National Meteorological Center (NMC) results.

The area of each element of the ECMWF 144 x 73 grid was approximately $2.5^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$. ECMWF forecast-analyses of surface wind components at 10-m height were issued twice a day, at 0000 and 1200 GMT. Wind speed, s , was computed at 12-h intervals: $s = (u^2 + v^2)^{1/2}$.

3 DATA PRESENTATION

All data are presented in the form of color-coded maps. To ease interpretation of features among different parameters, a common color code is used: blues represent low values, reds are high values, yellow and green are in the middle range, white means no data, and black represents land. Data are linearly scaled for color and an incremental color scale represents a contour interval. A single geographical scale is used for all maps. The land mask, which was prepared by O. Brown from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) World Data Base II, is the same throughout this report.

The color maps were generated on a Sun™-4 computer using IDL®, which prepared the PostScript® files, and printed on a Tektronix™ Phaser CP Color Printer. All data values are retained in the PostScript image files. The SSMI images contain 1080 x 540 pixels (picture elements) and the AVHRR images contain 1024 x 512 pixels. All images are plotted on a 5.75-in. x 2.875-in. map. The PostScript interpreter linearly transforms the size of each pixel within the user image file into a source-image coordinate system, which is compatible with the 300 dot-per-in. resolution of the Tektronix, to achieve the maximum rendition of the image within the specified dimensions (Adobe Systems, 1985).

Data presented in Appendices A2, A5, and A7 are available on magnetic tape from the Physical Oceanography Distributed Active Archive Center, M/S 300-323, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, CA 91109.

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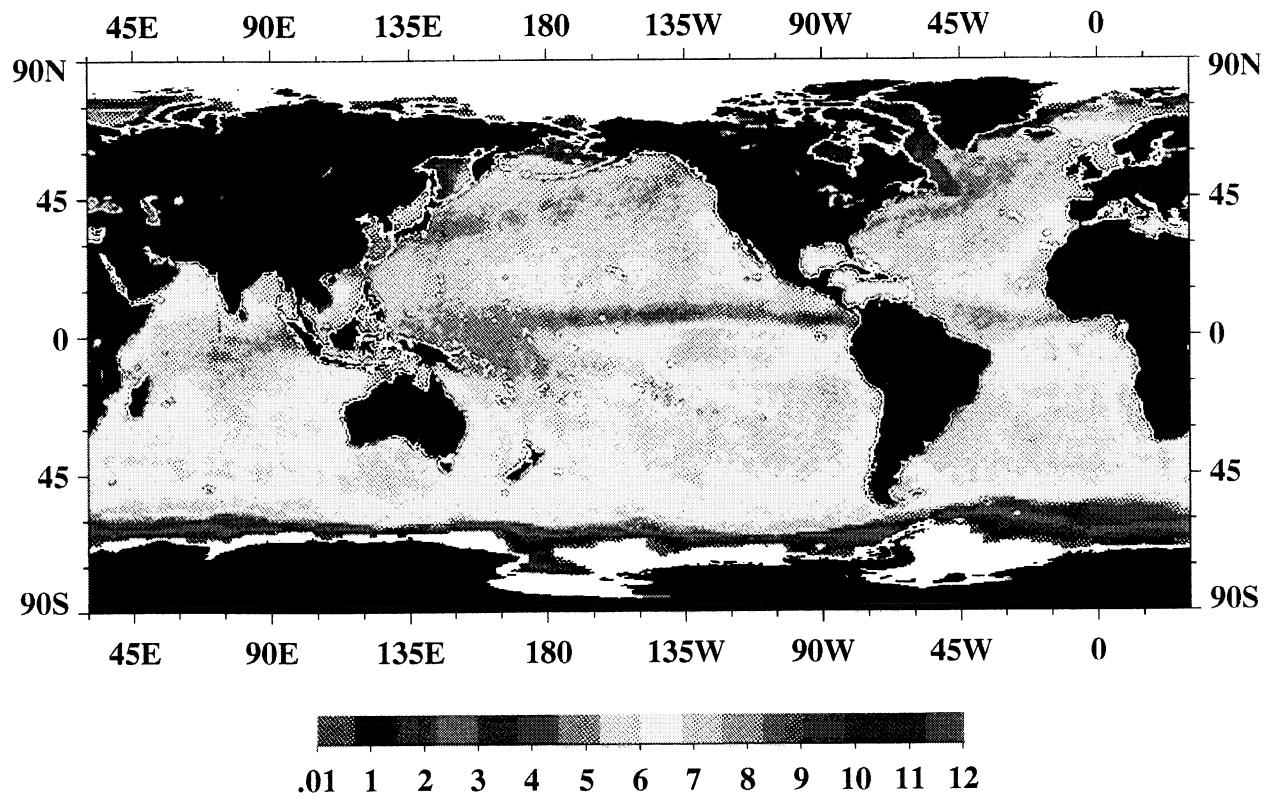
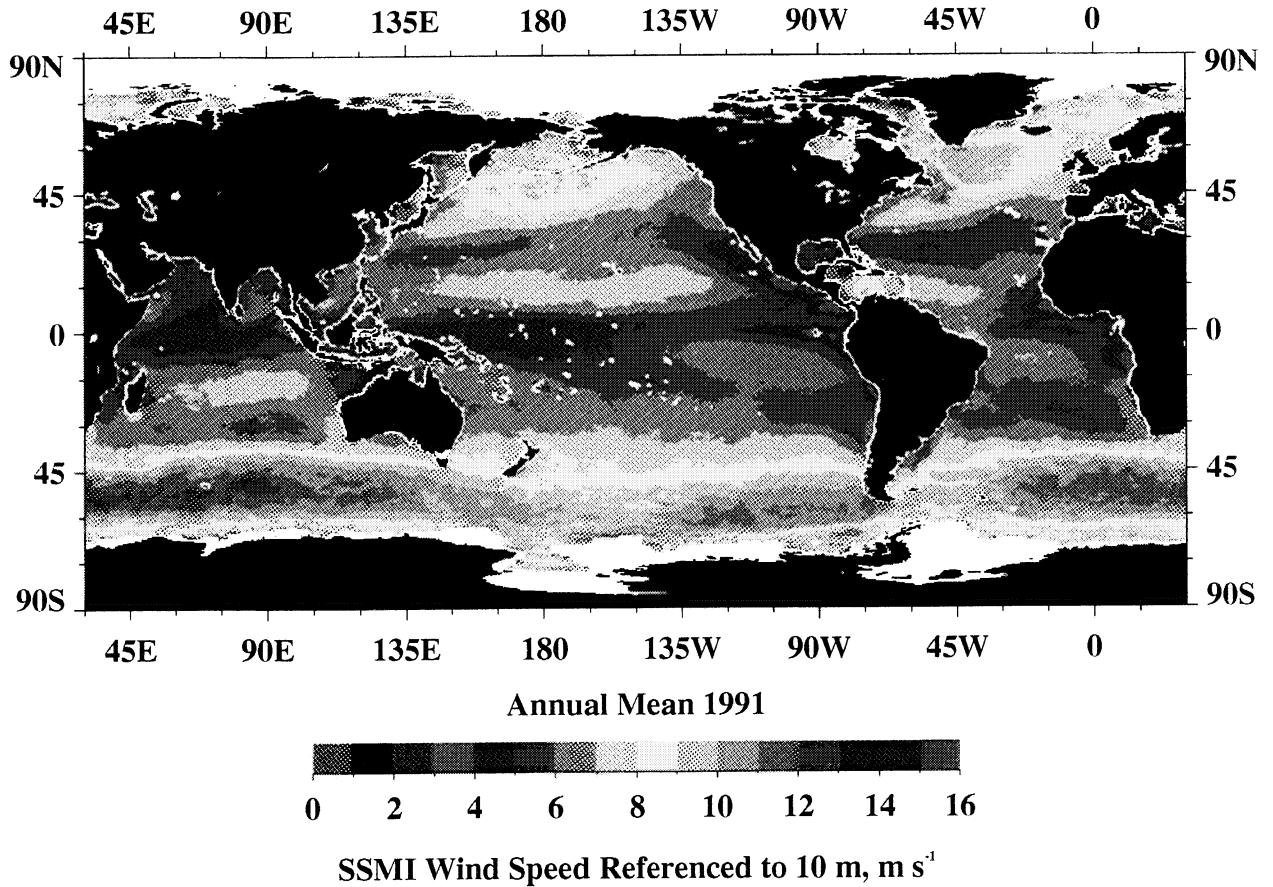
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APPENDIX

Atlas of Monthly Mean Distributions

A1

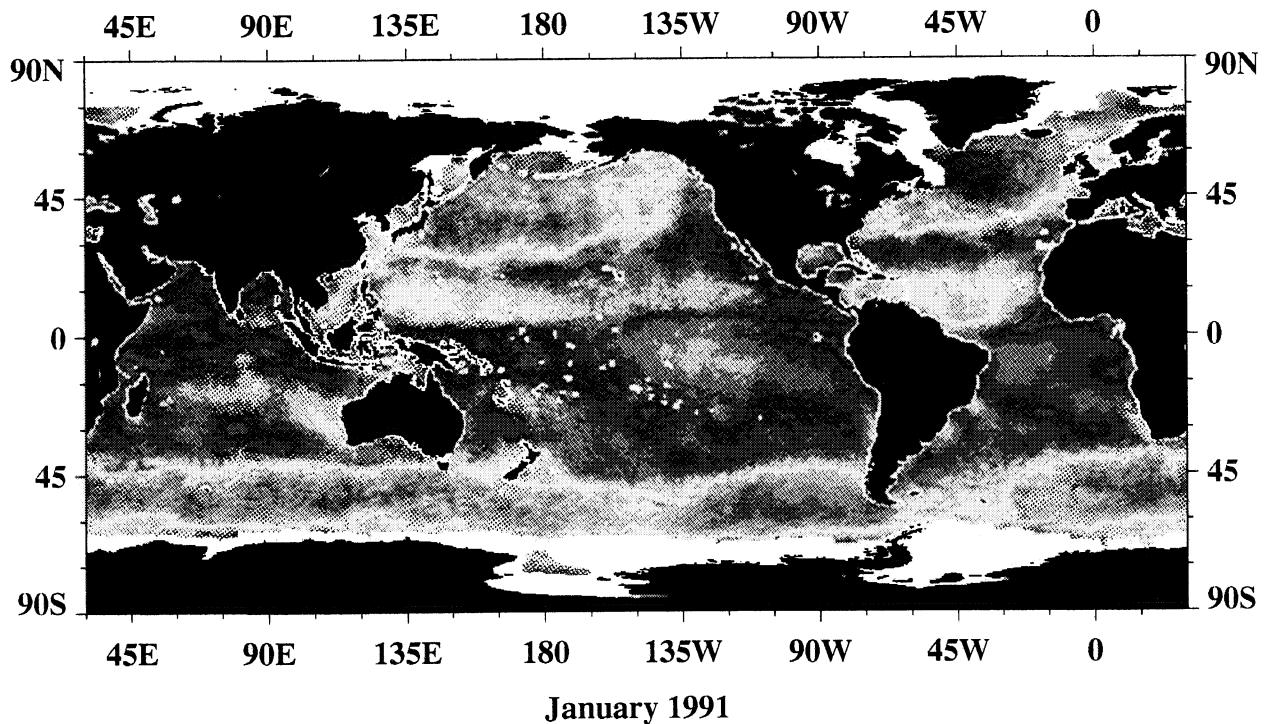
Annual Mean and Sampling Distribution of SSMI Surface Wind Speed



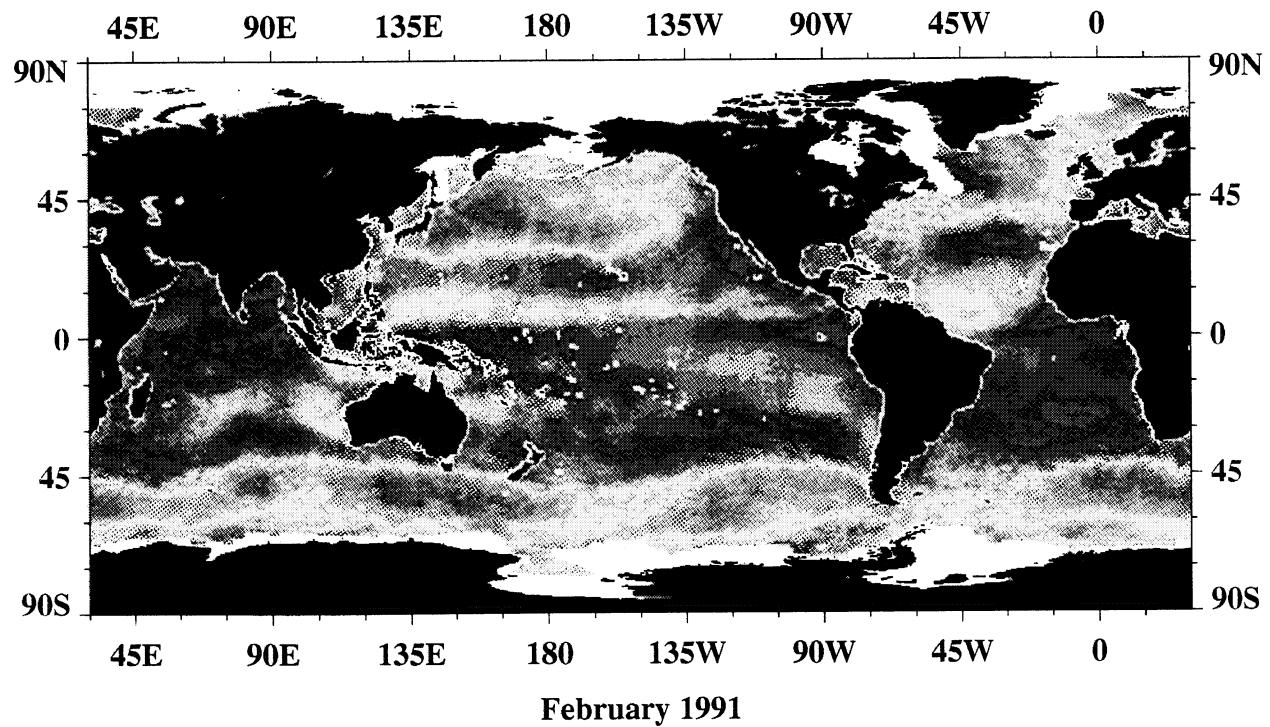
Number x 100 of SSMI Wind Speed Values per Pixel During 1991, max = 1040

A2

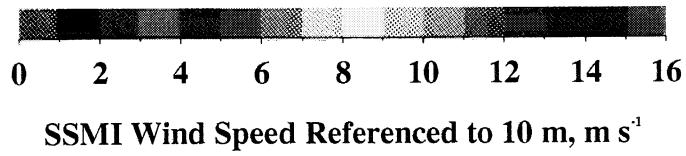
Monthly Mean SSMI Surface Wind Speed

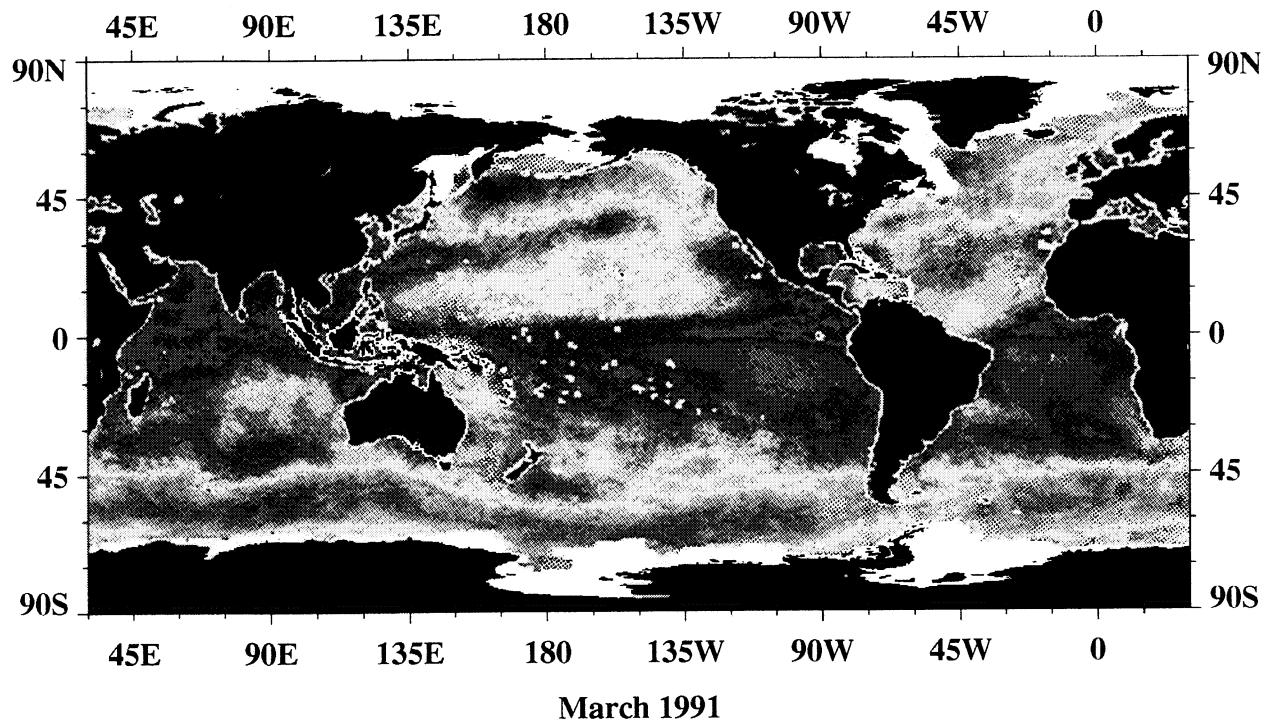


January 1991

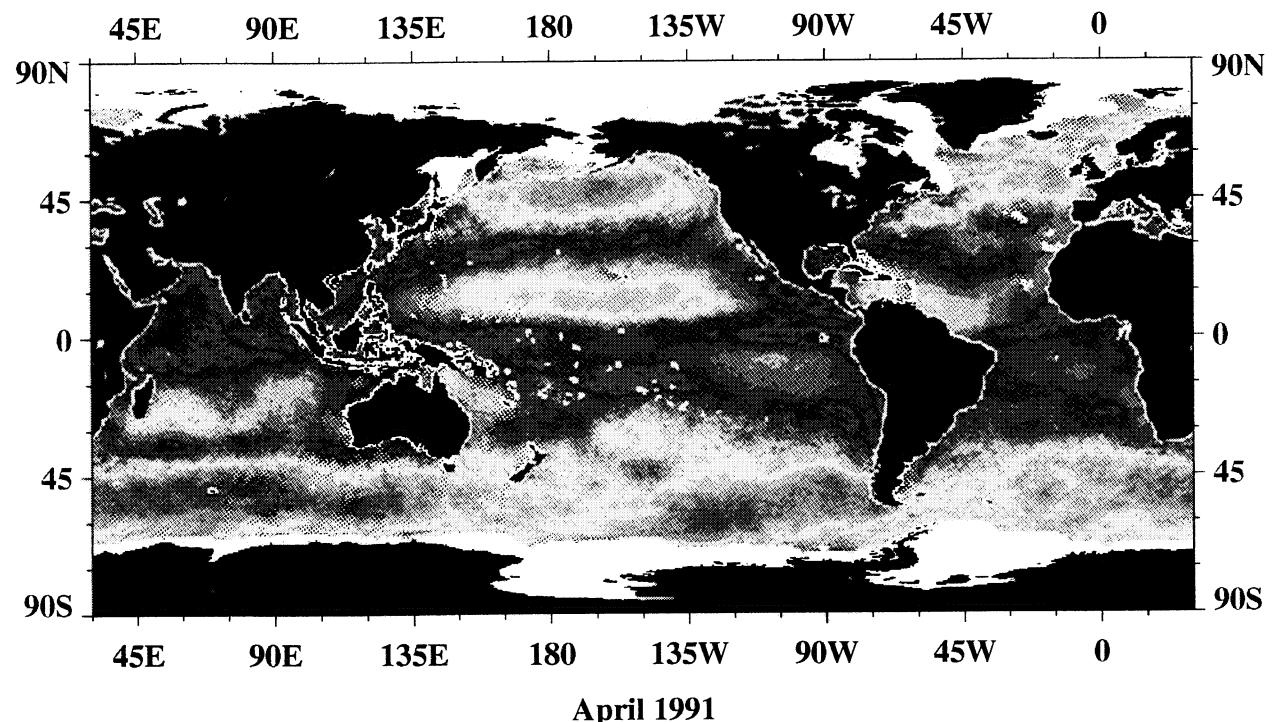


February 1991

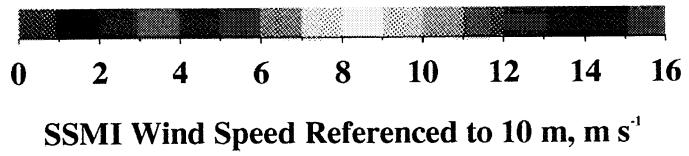




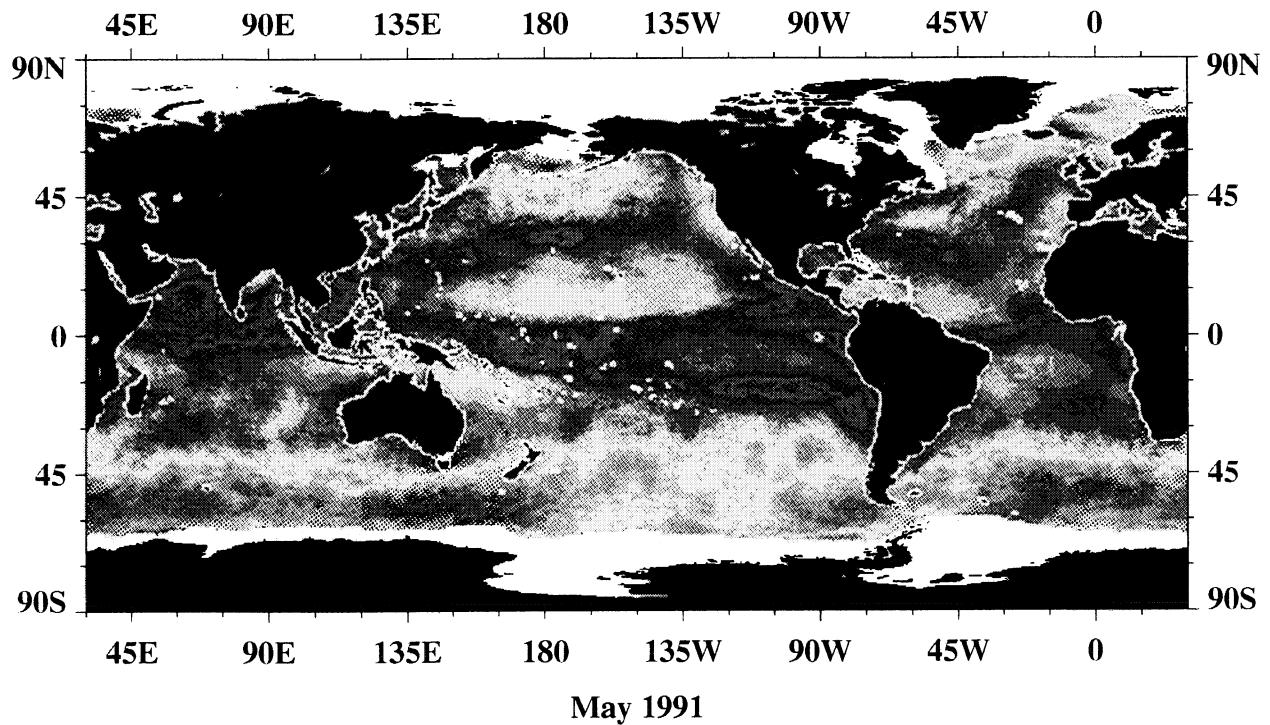
March 1991



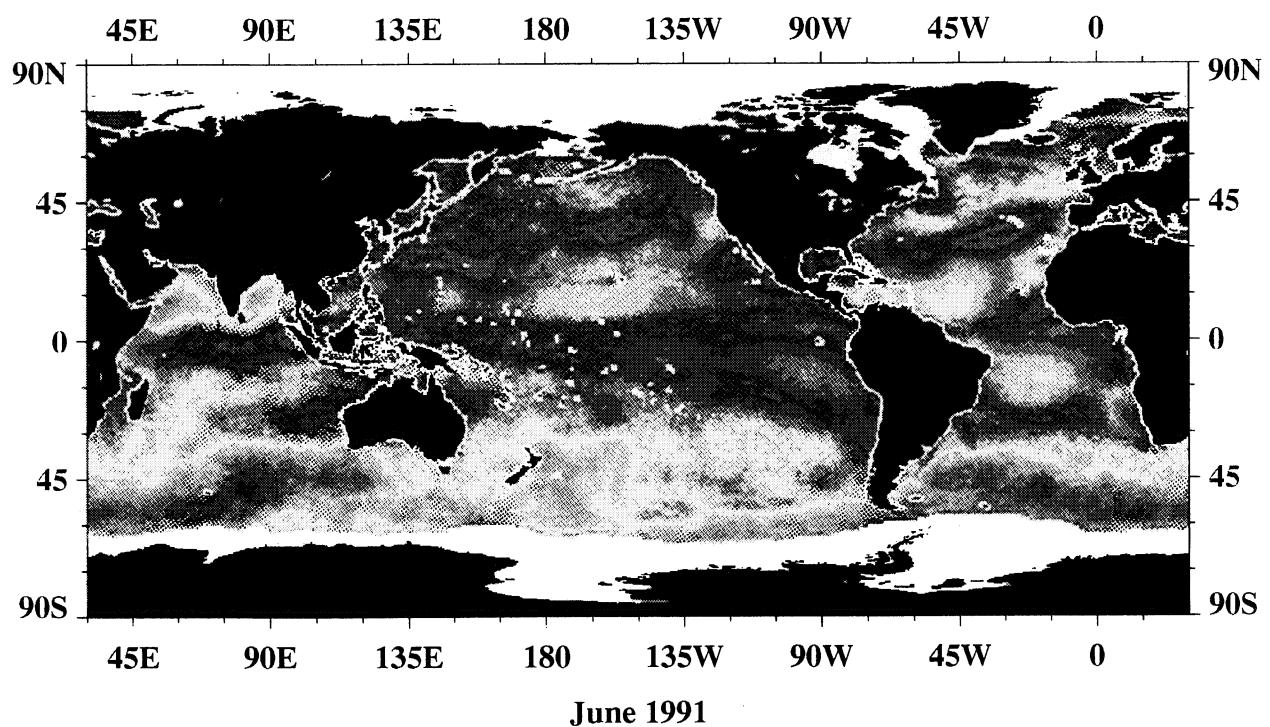
April 1991



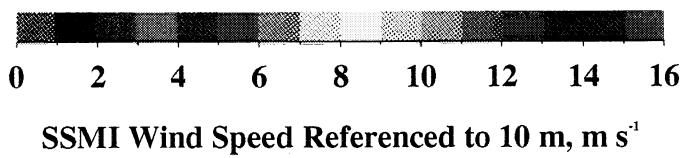
SSMI Wind Speed Referenced to 10 m, m s⁻¹

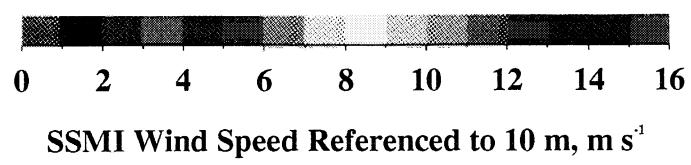
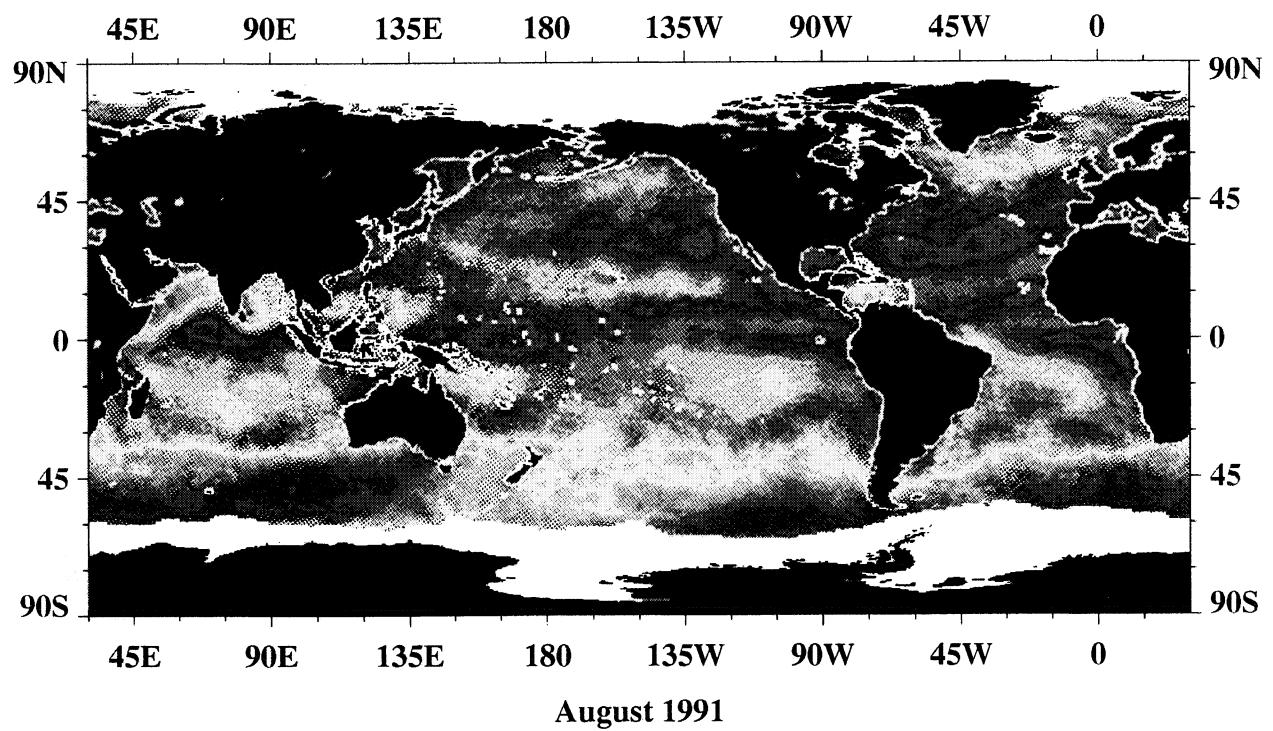
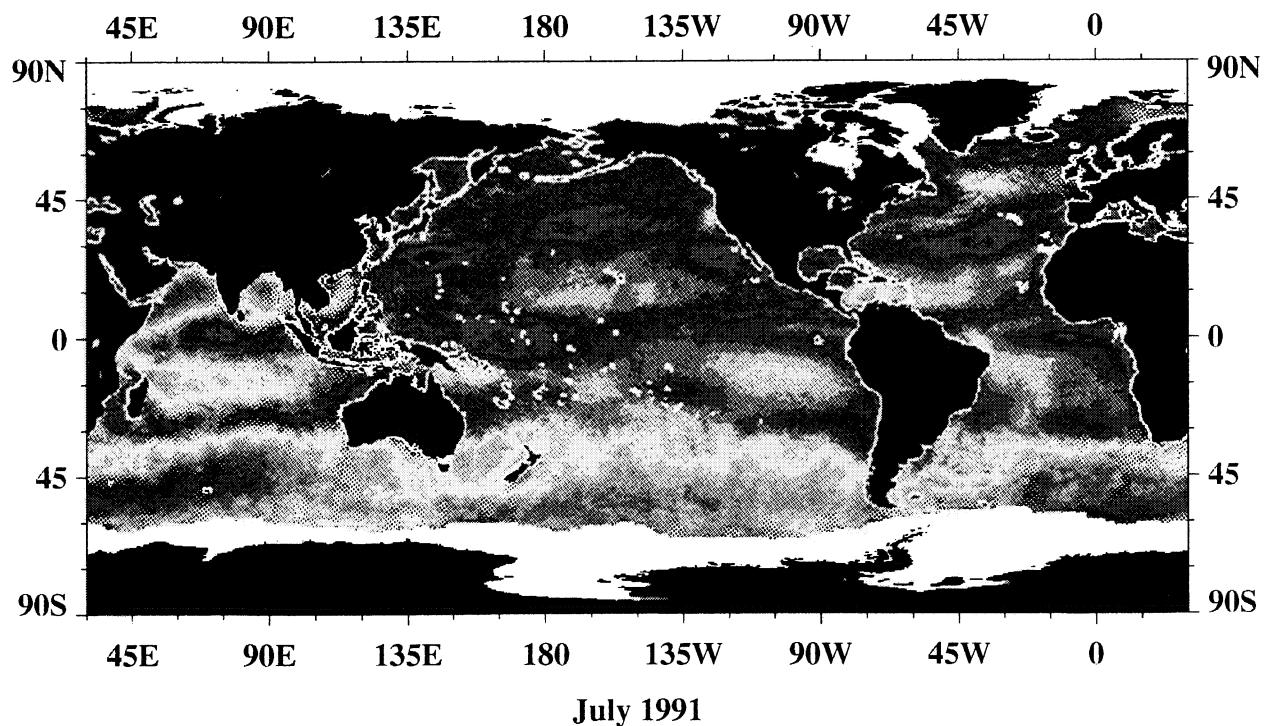


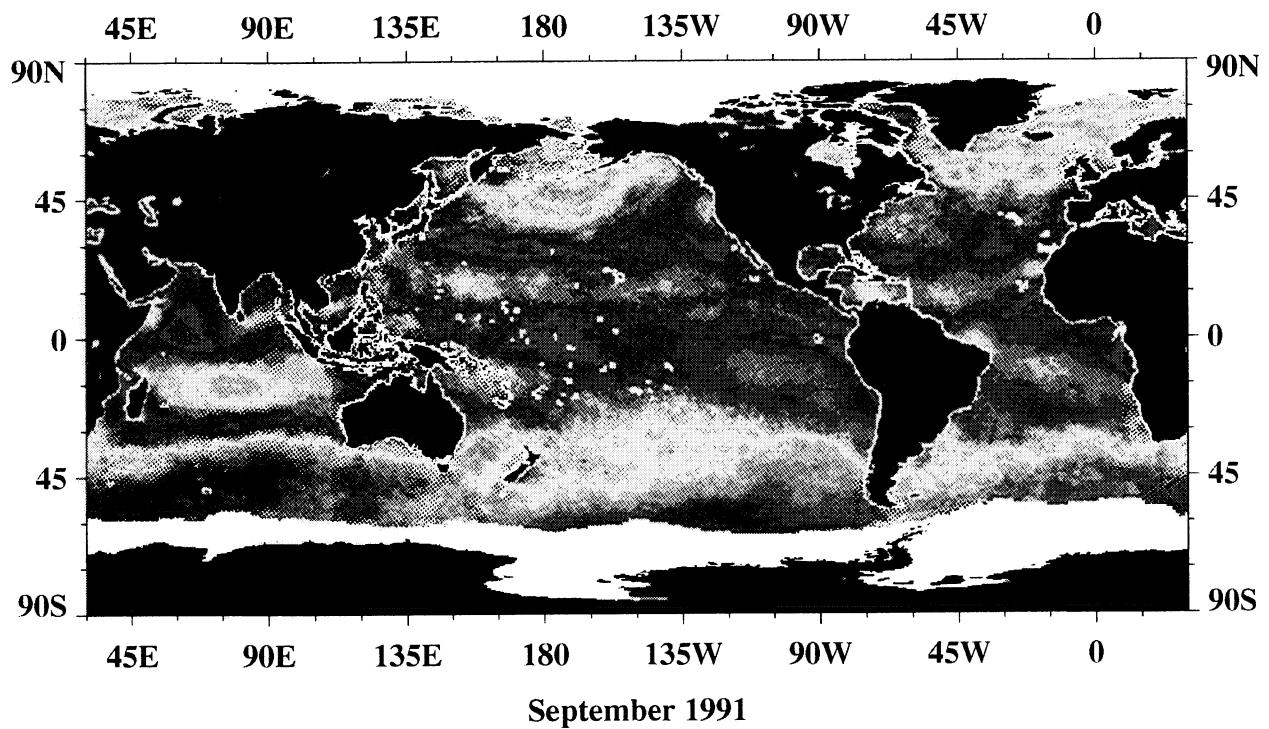
May 1991



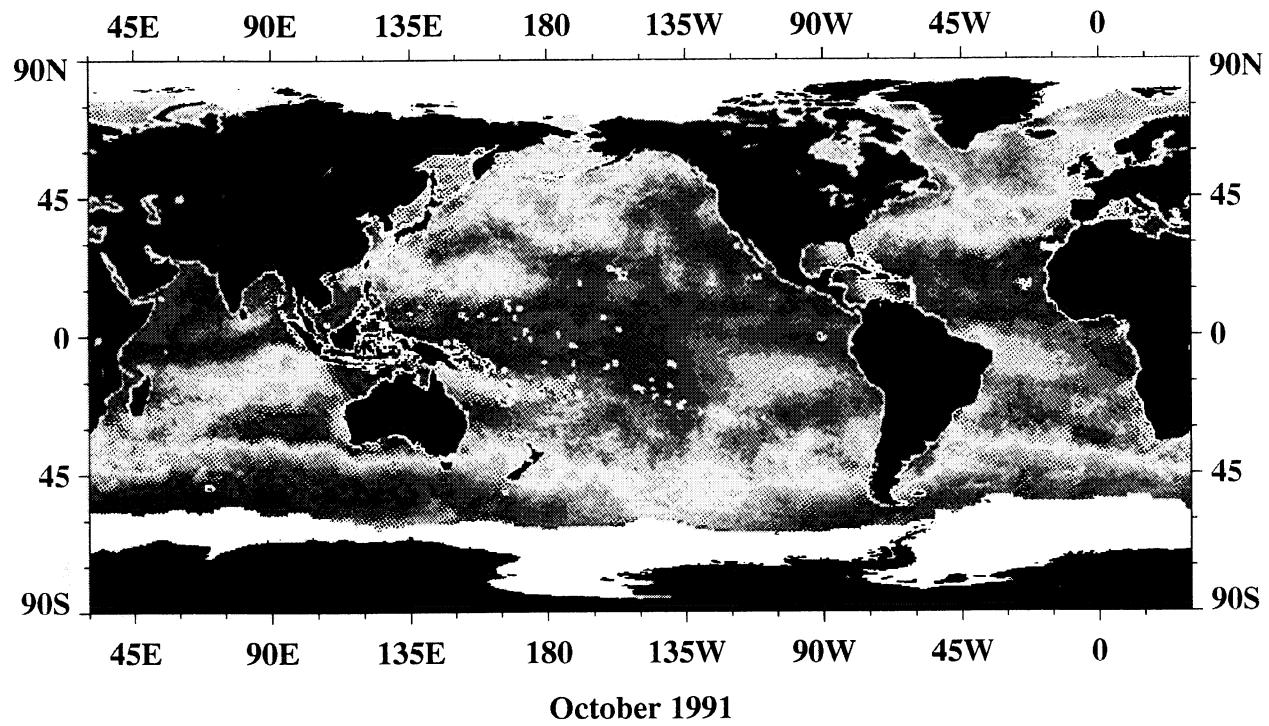
June 1991



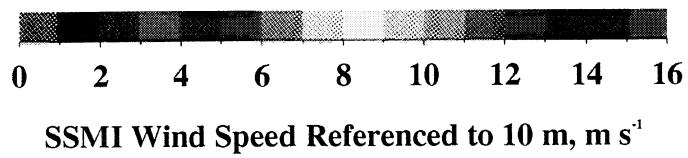


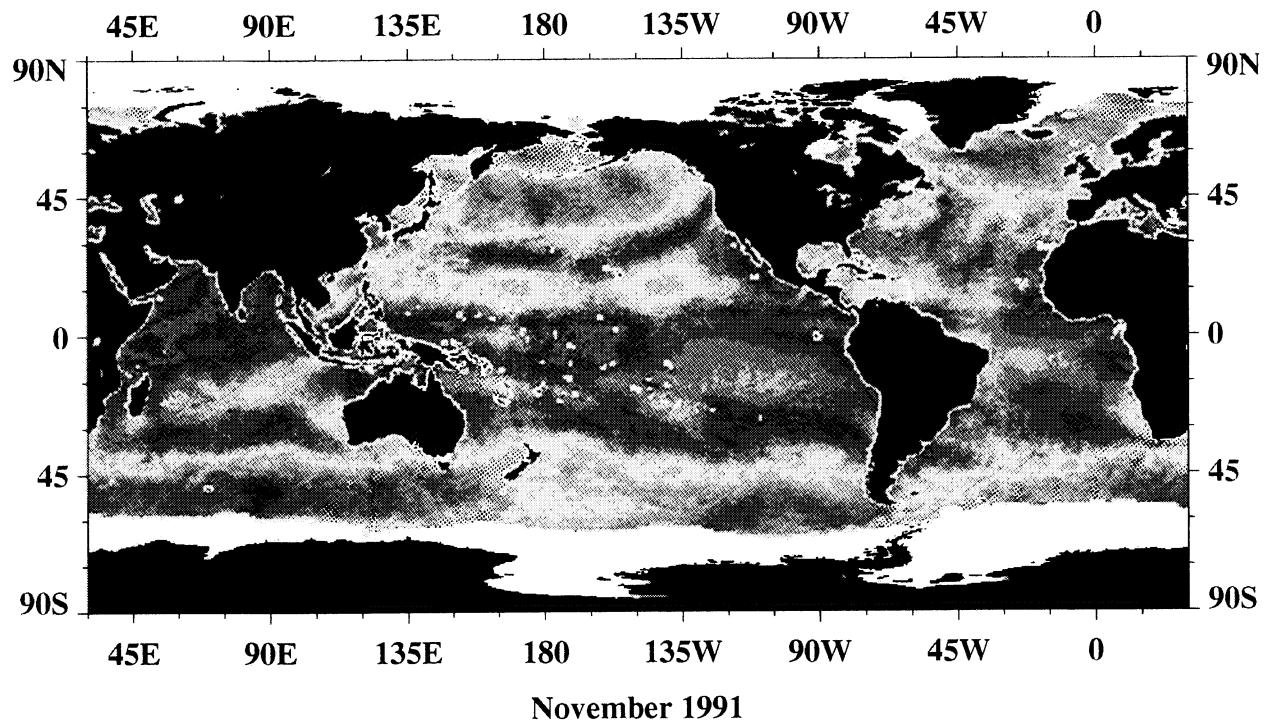


September 1991

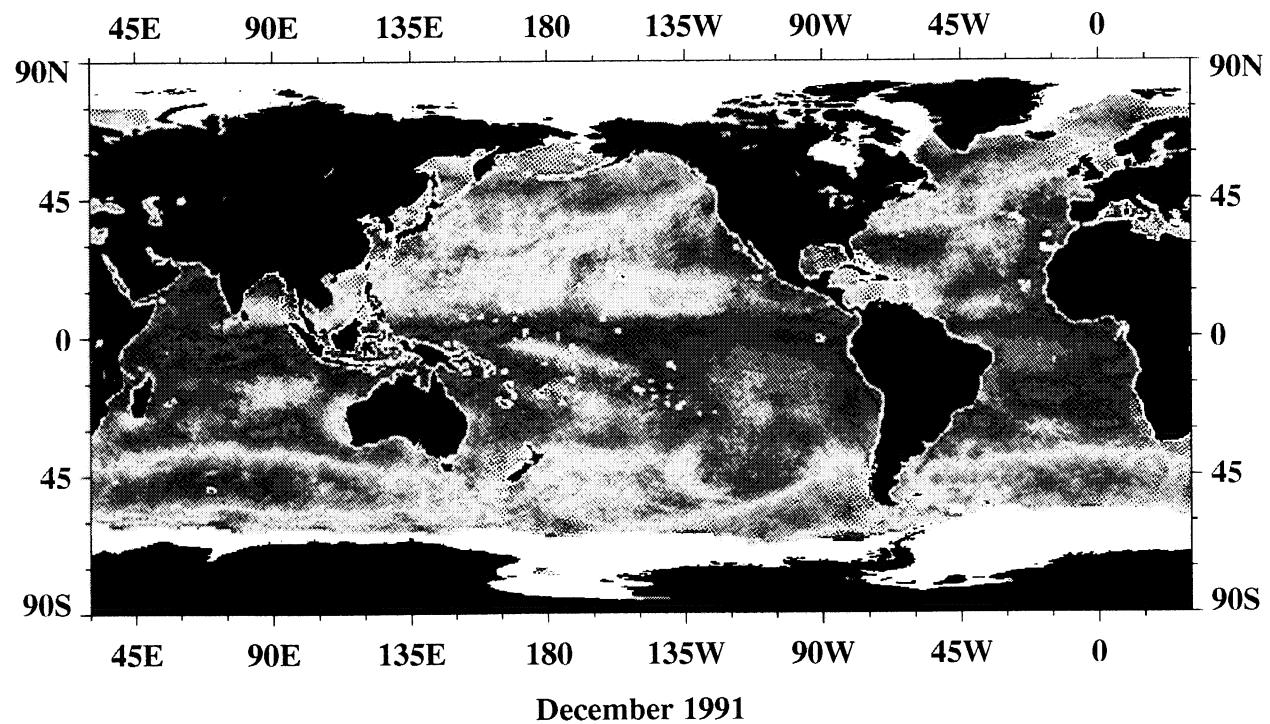


October 1991

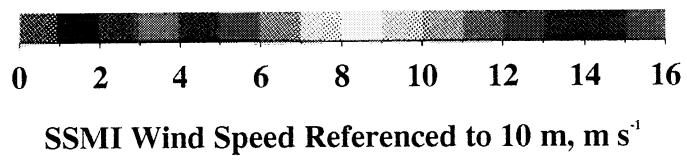




November 1991



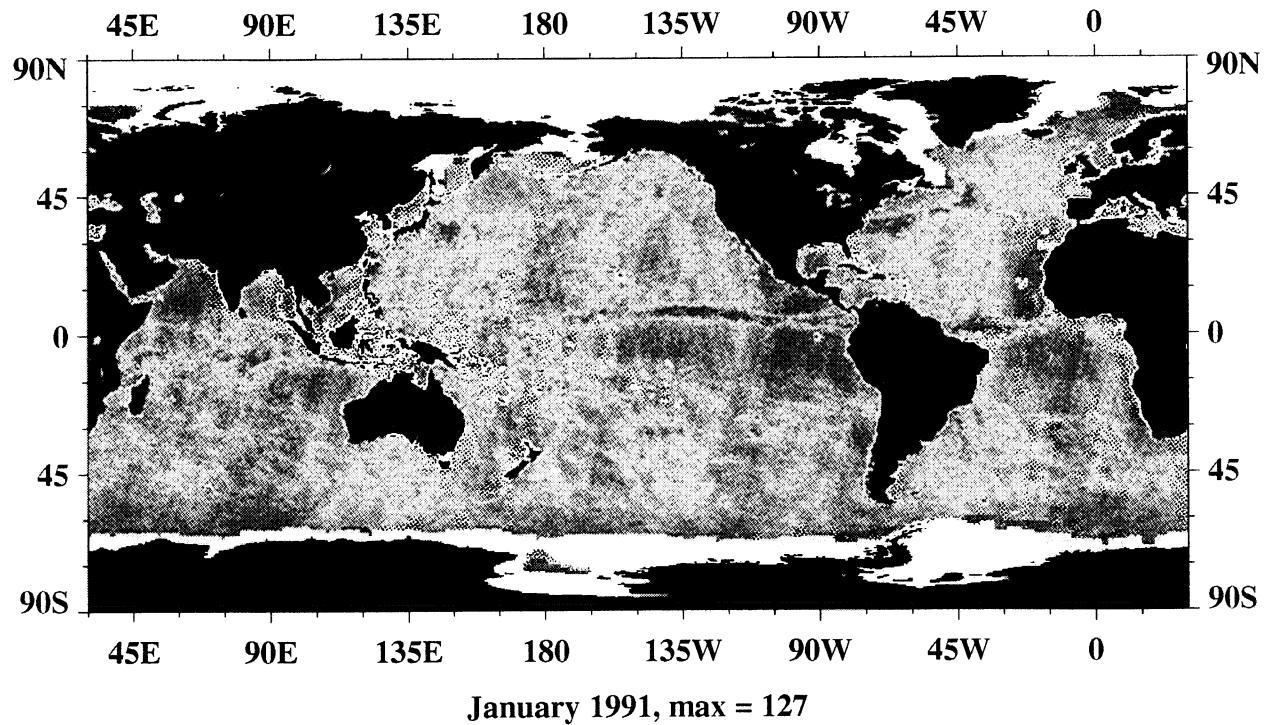
December 1991



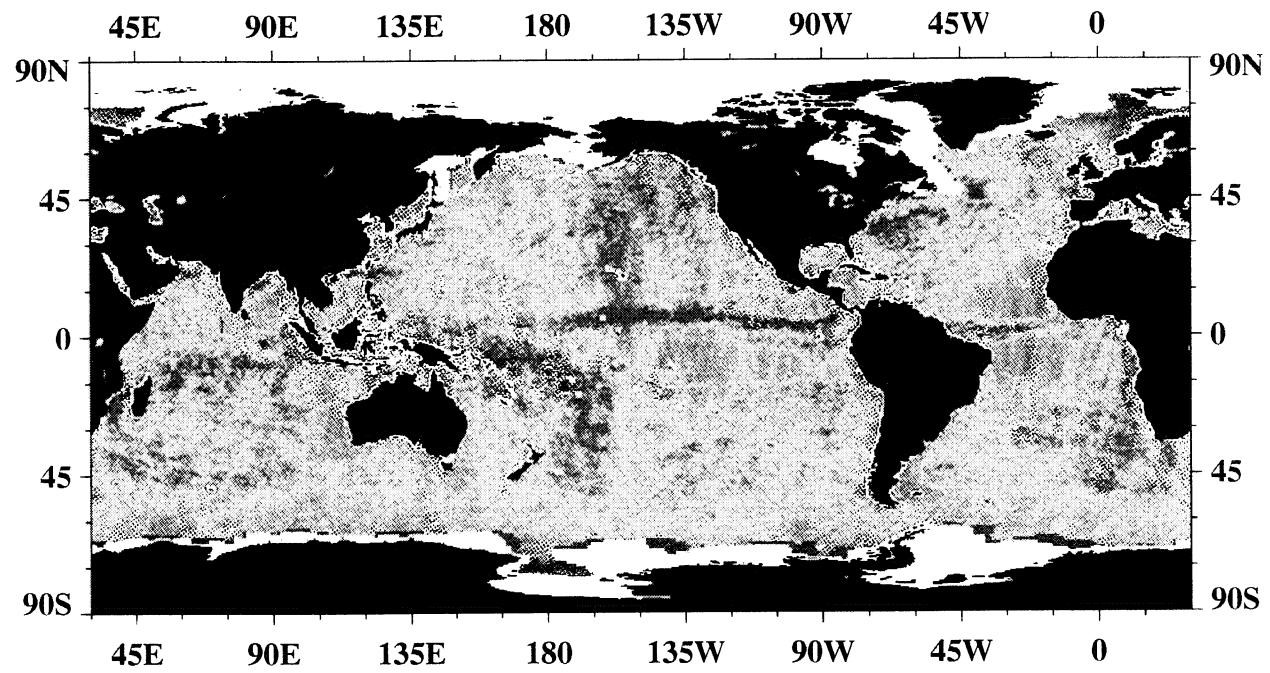
SSMI Wind Speed Referenced to 10 m, m s⁻¹

A3

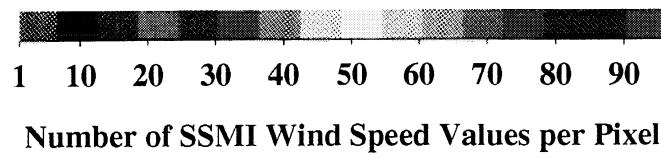
Monthly SSMI Sampling Distribution

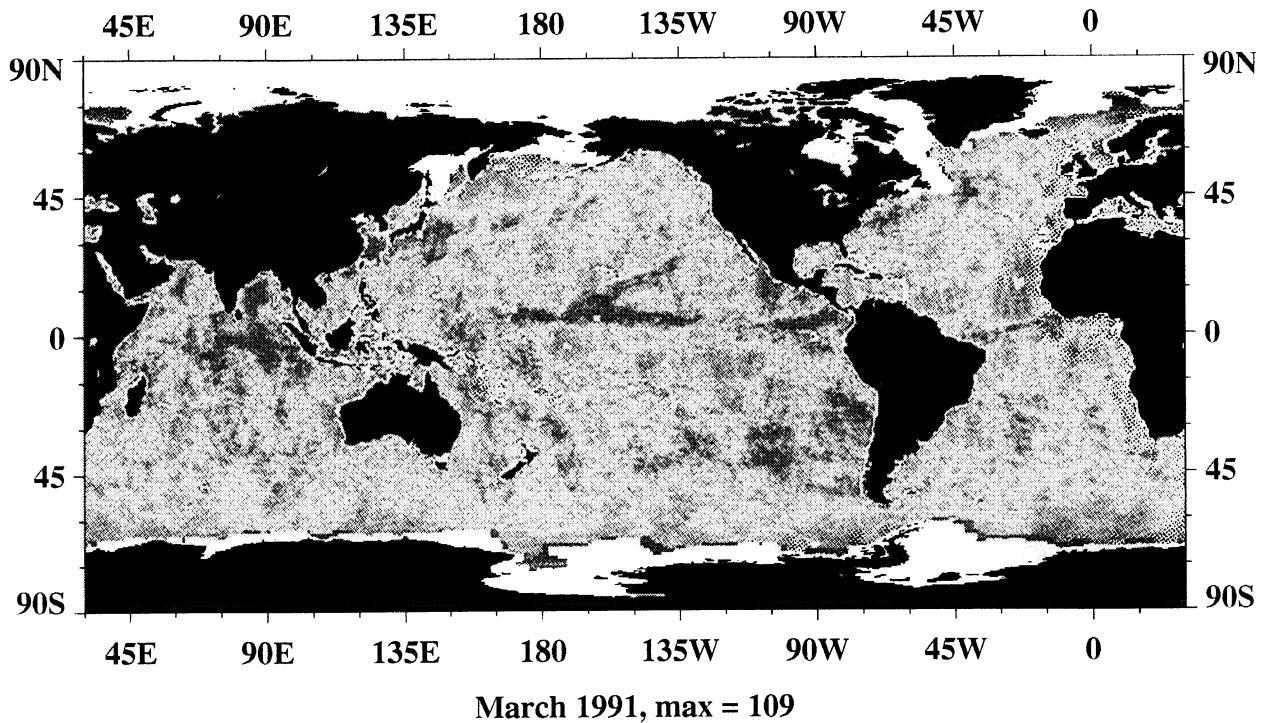


January 1991, max = 127

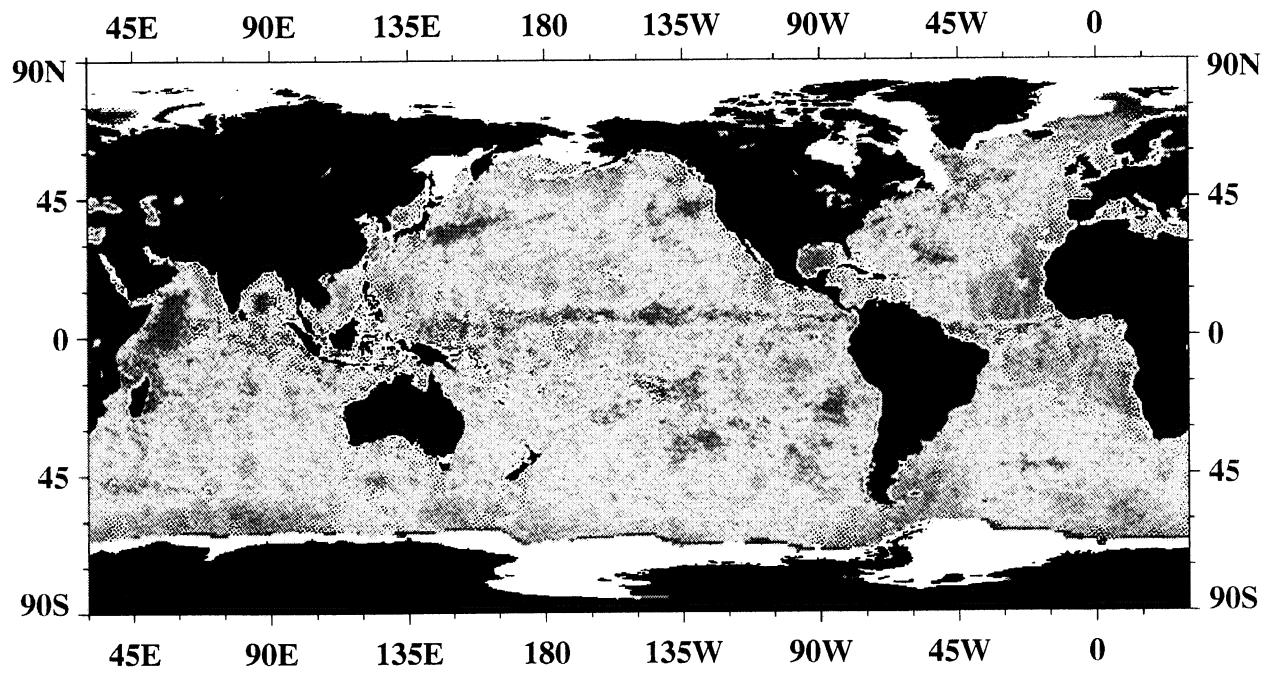


February 1991, max = 115

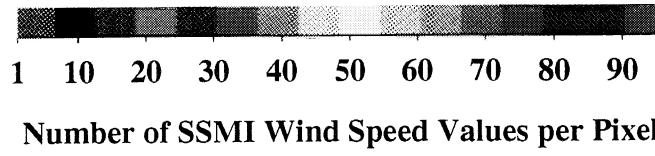




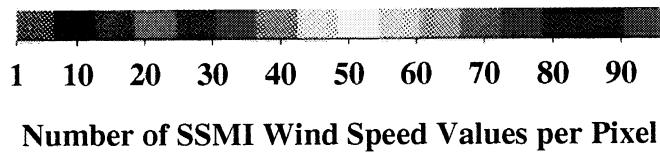
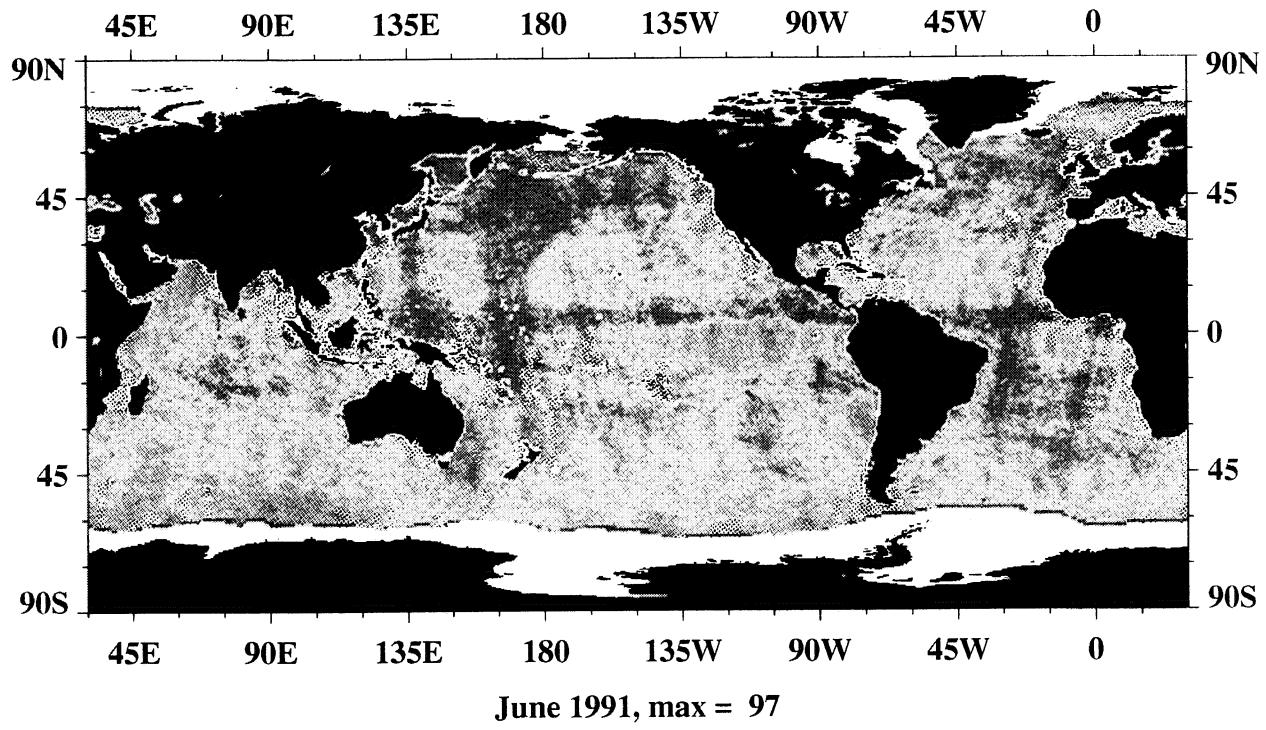
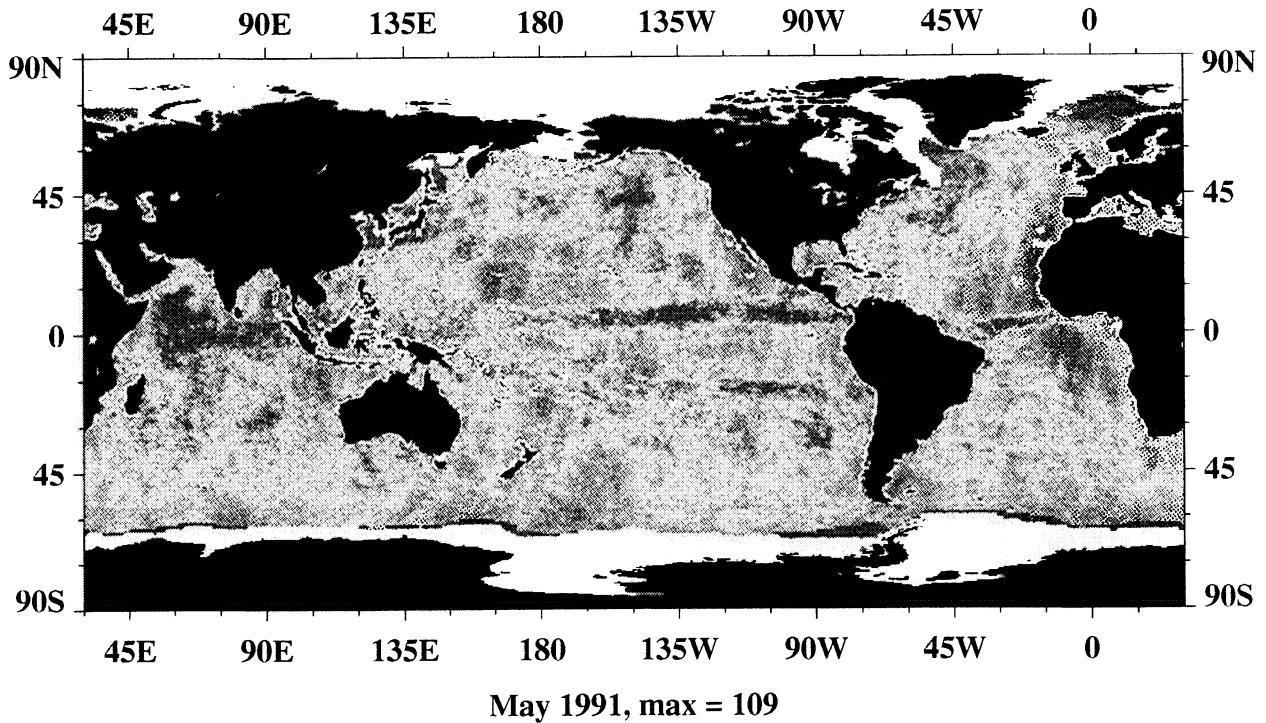
March 1991, max = 109

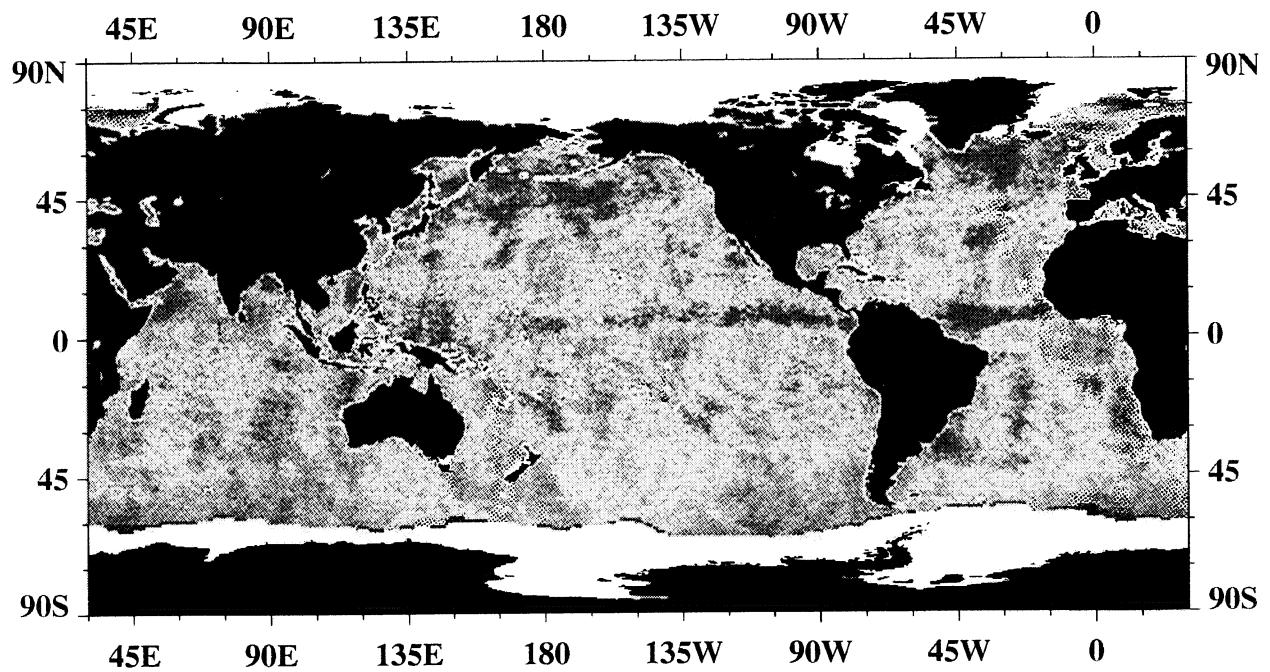


April 1991, max = 117

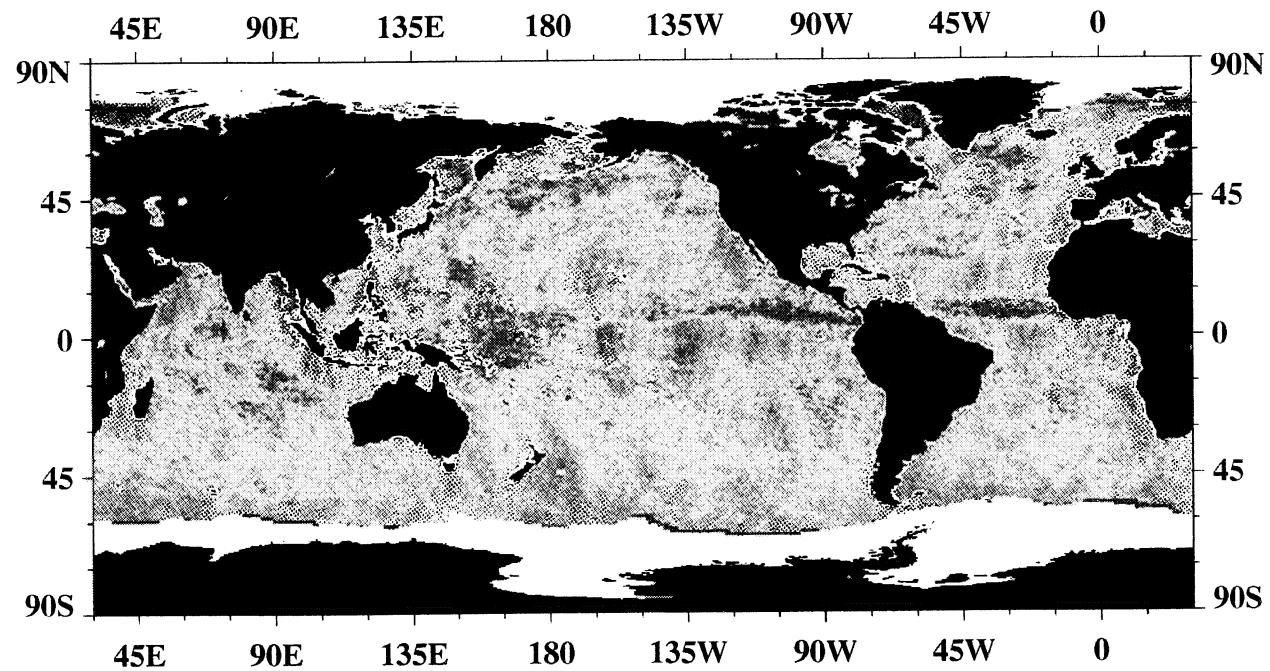


Number of SSMI Wind Speed Values per Pixel

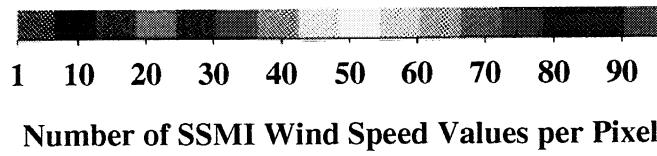


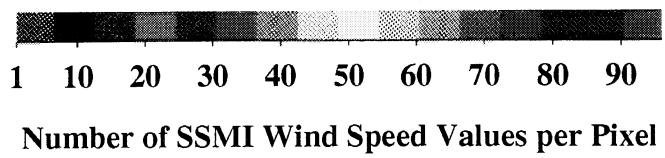
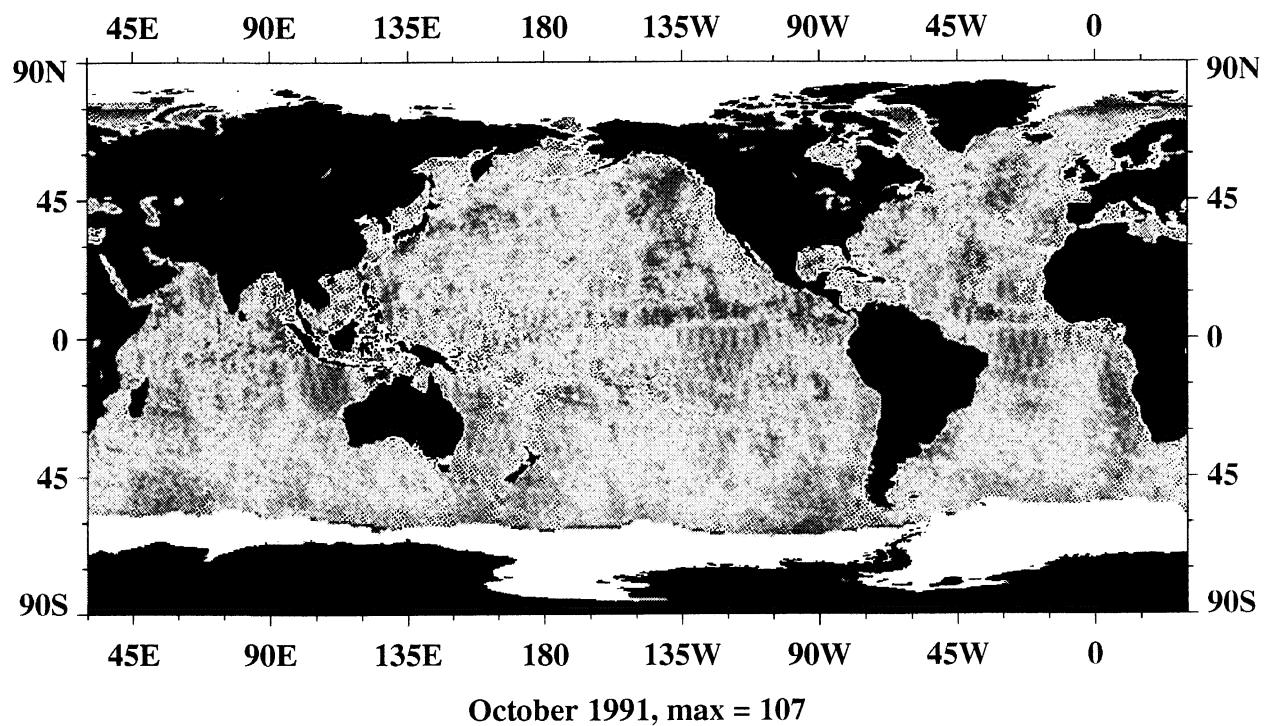
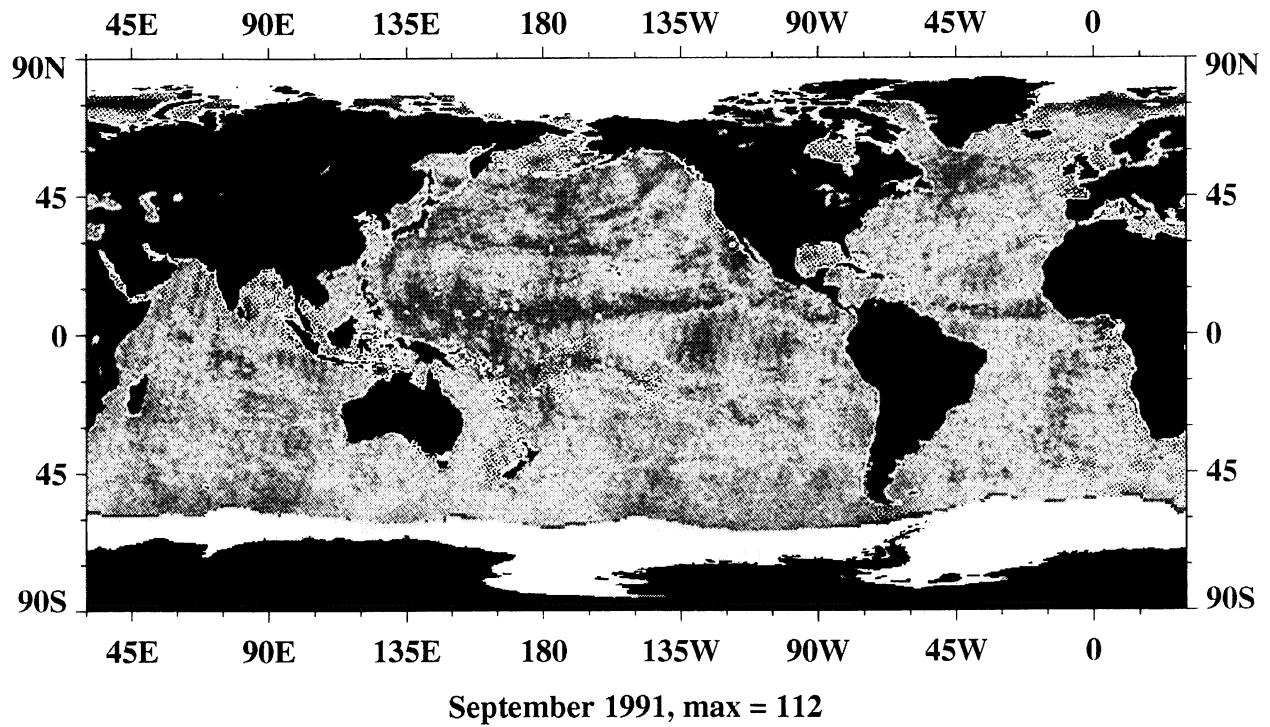


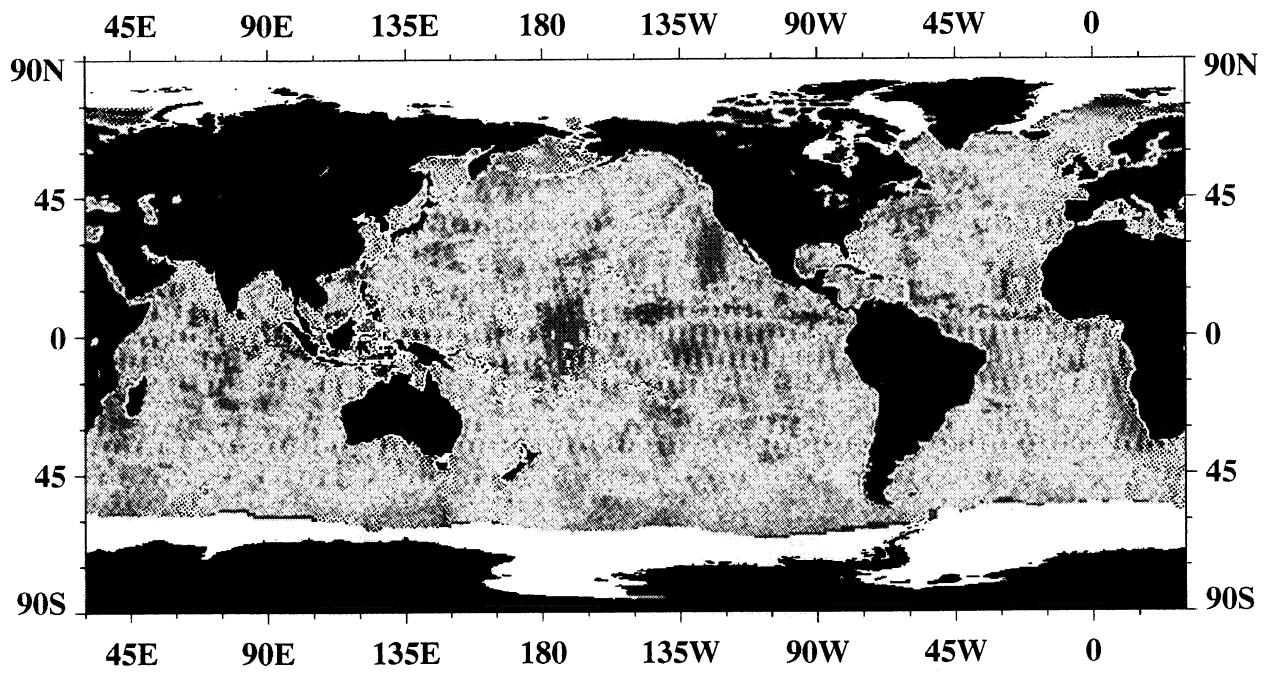
July 1991, max = 106



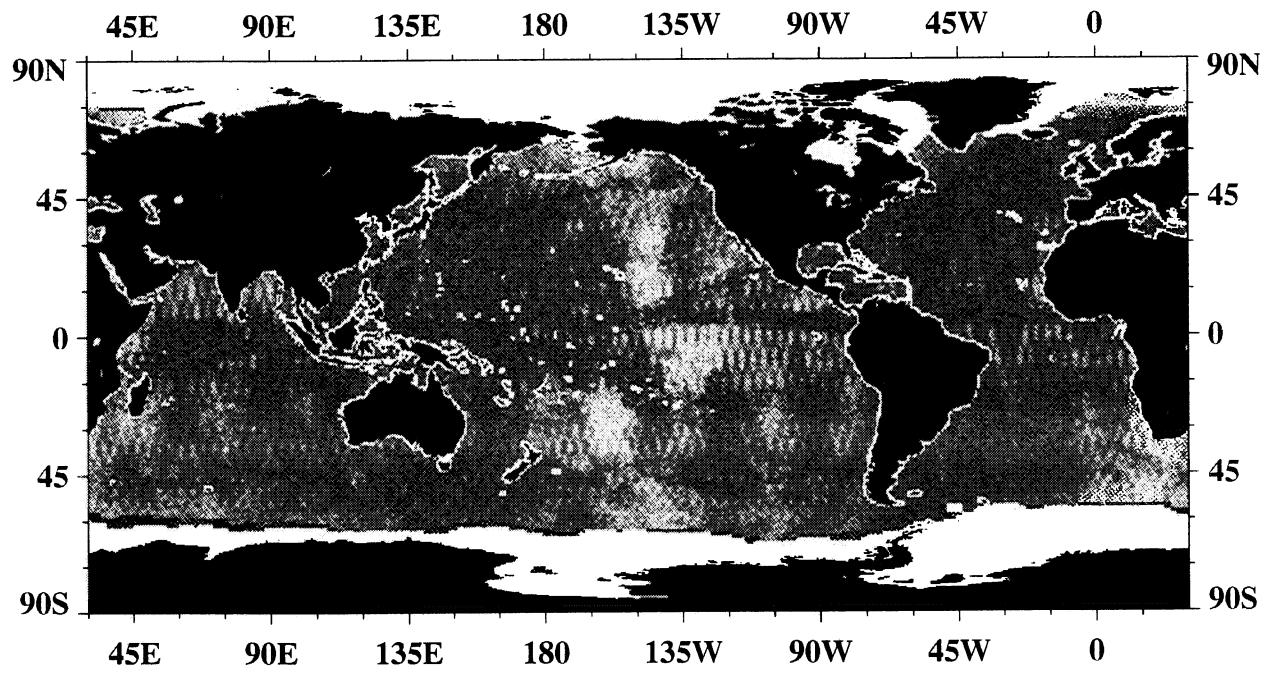
August 1991, max = 109



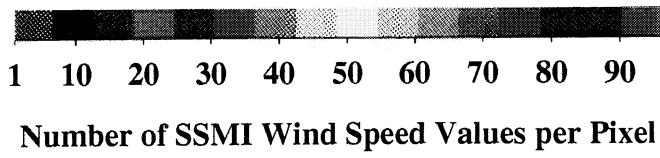




November 1991, max = 103

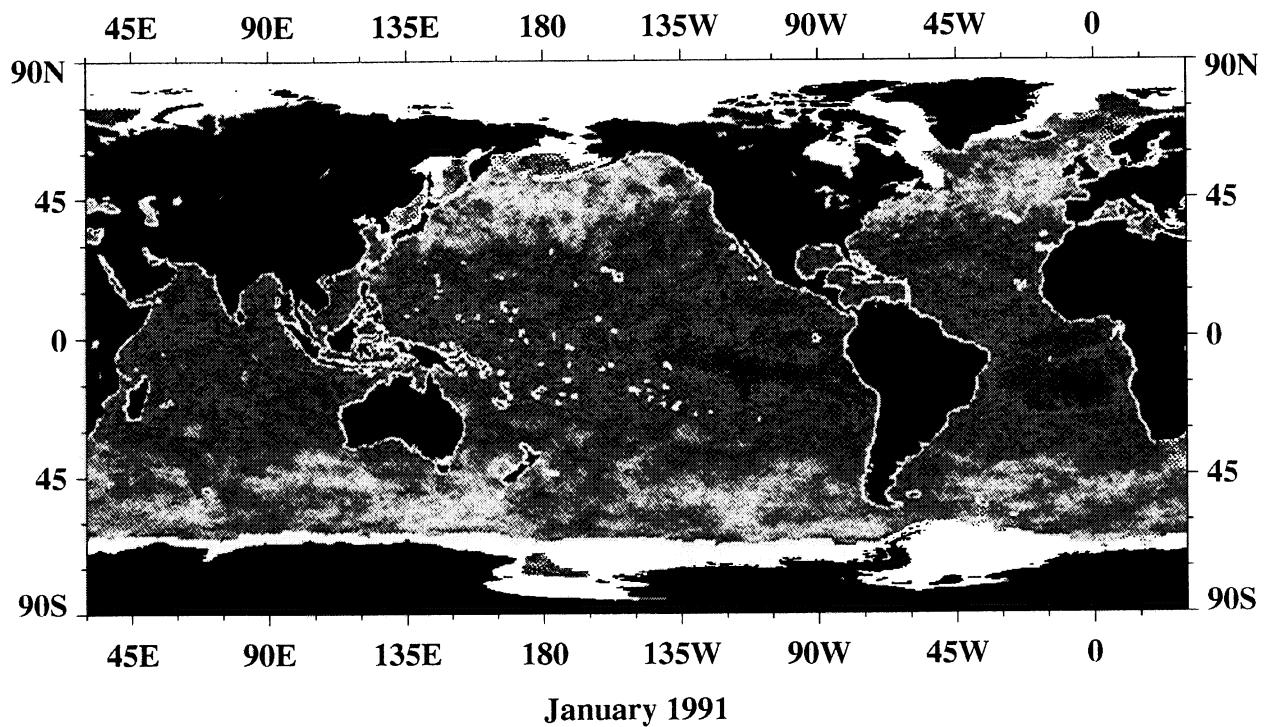


December 1991, max = 70

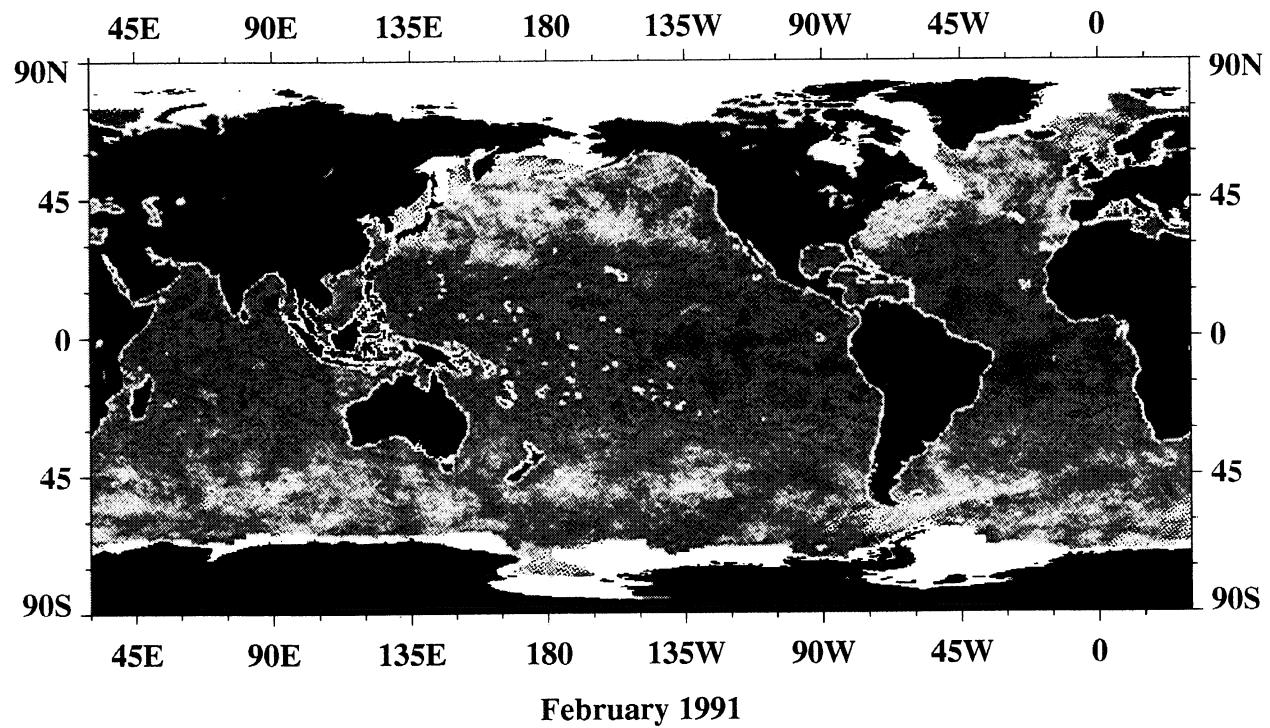


A4

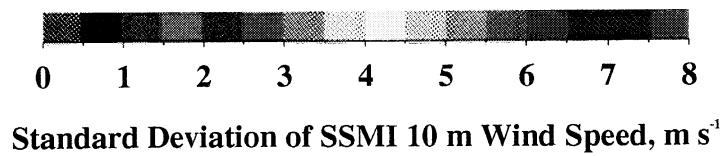
Monthly Standard Deviation of SSMI Surface Wind Speed

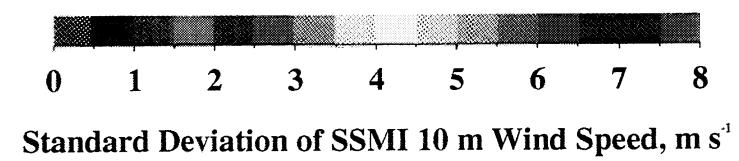
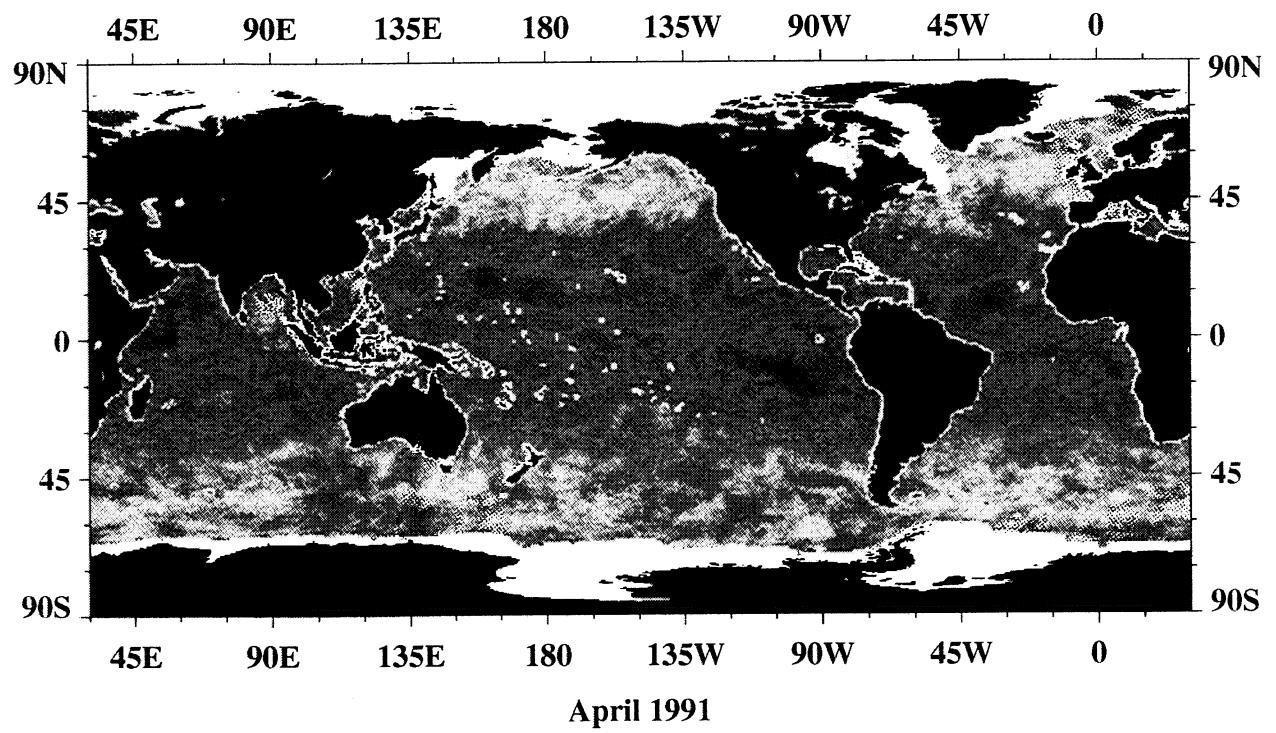
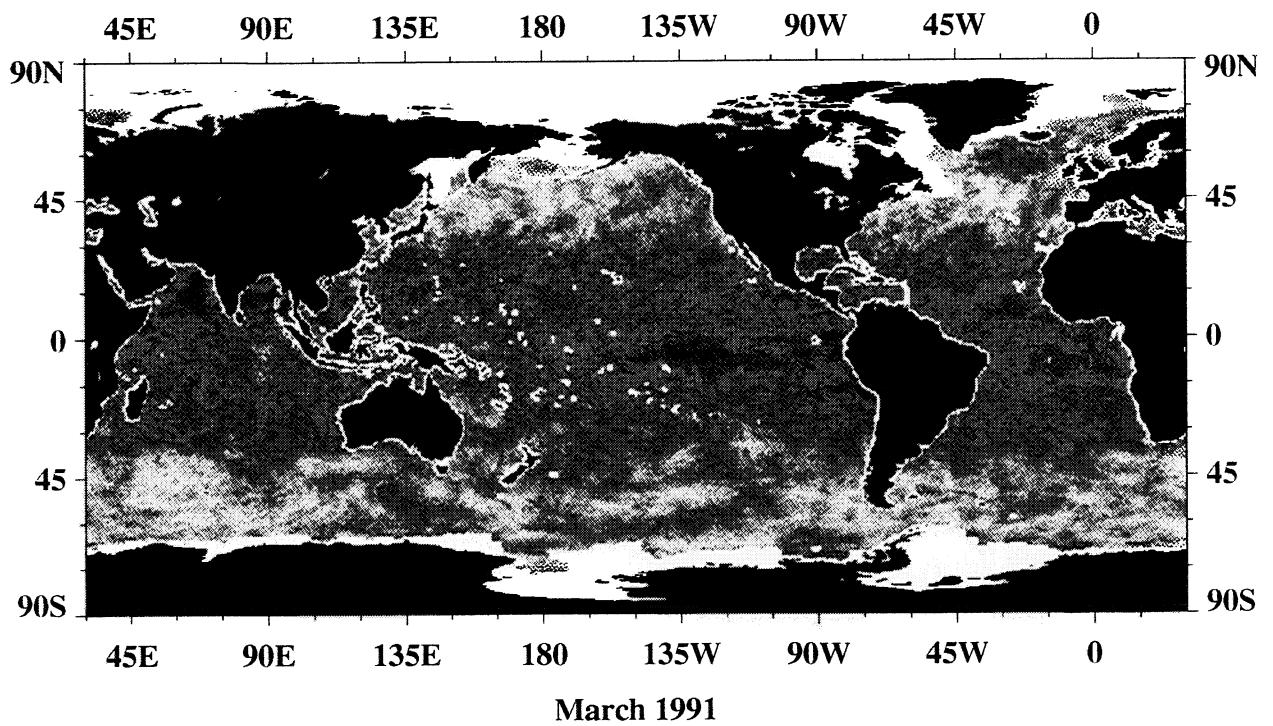


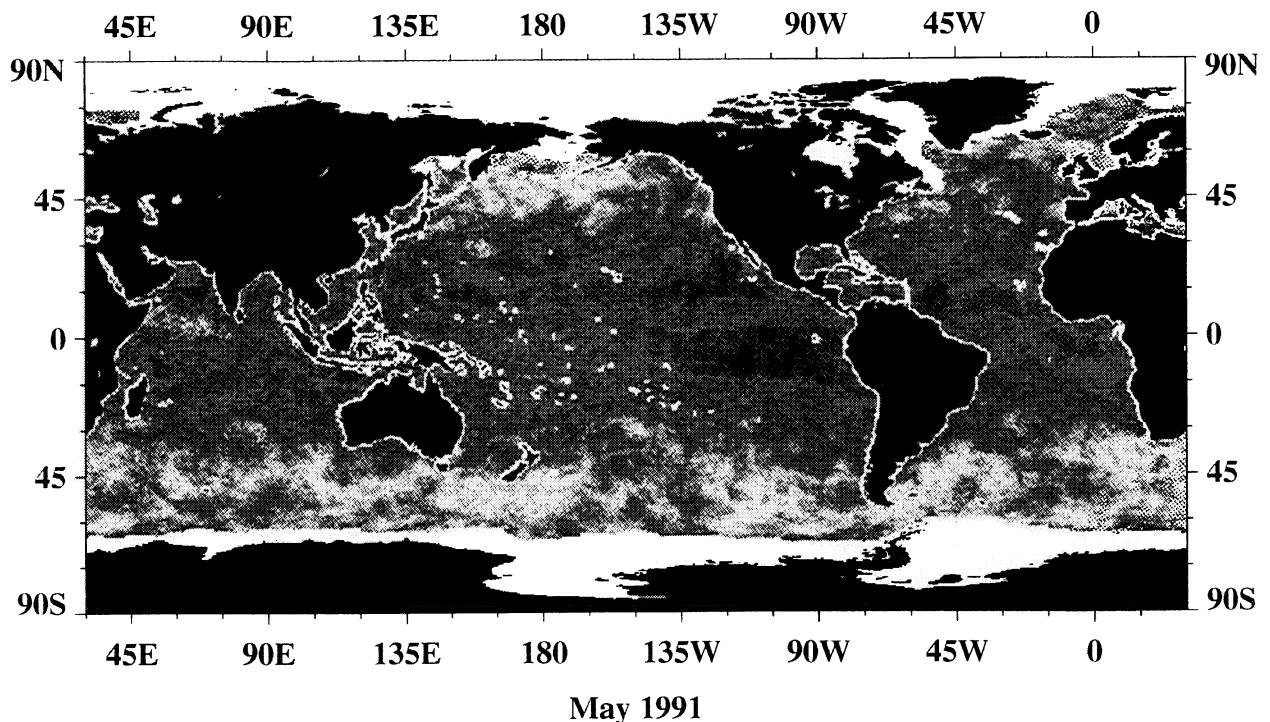
January 1991



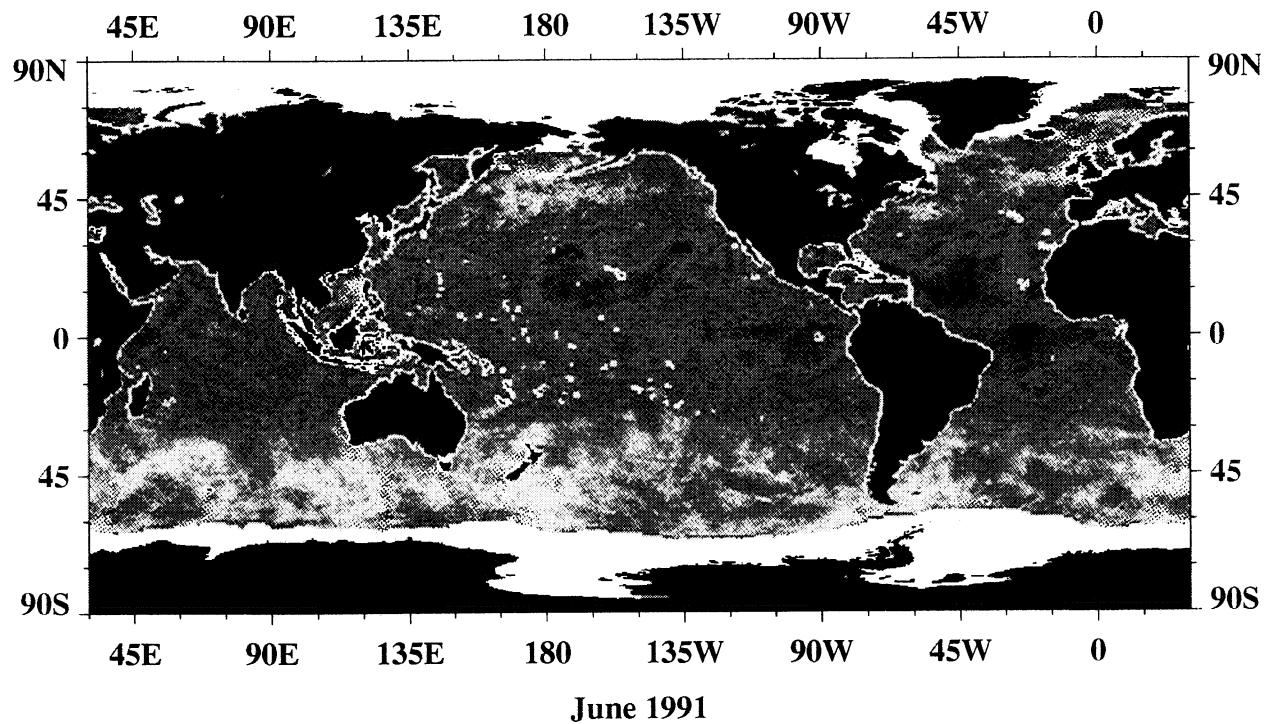
February 1991



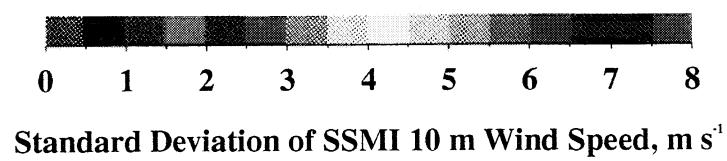


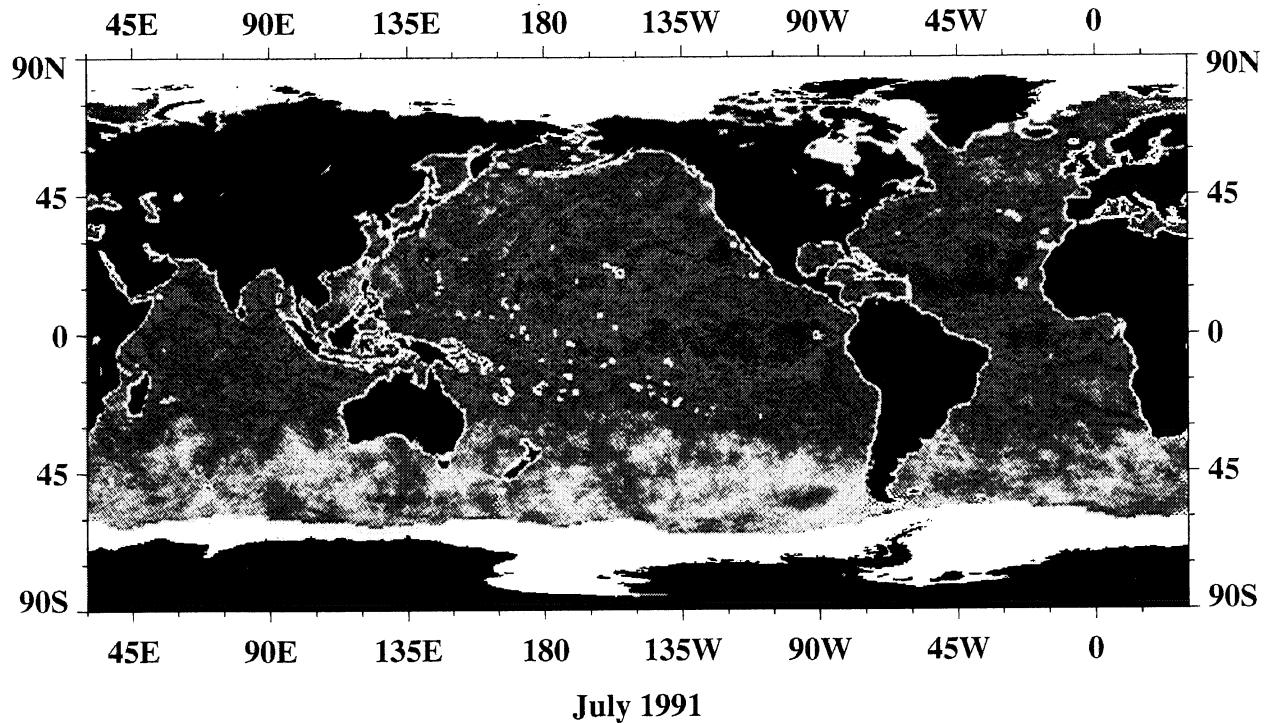


May 1991

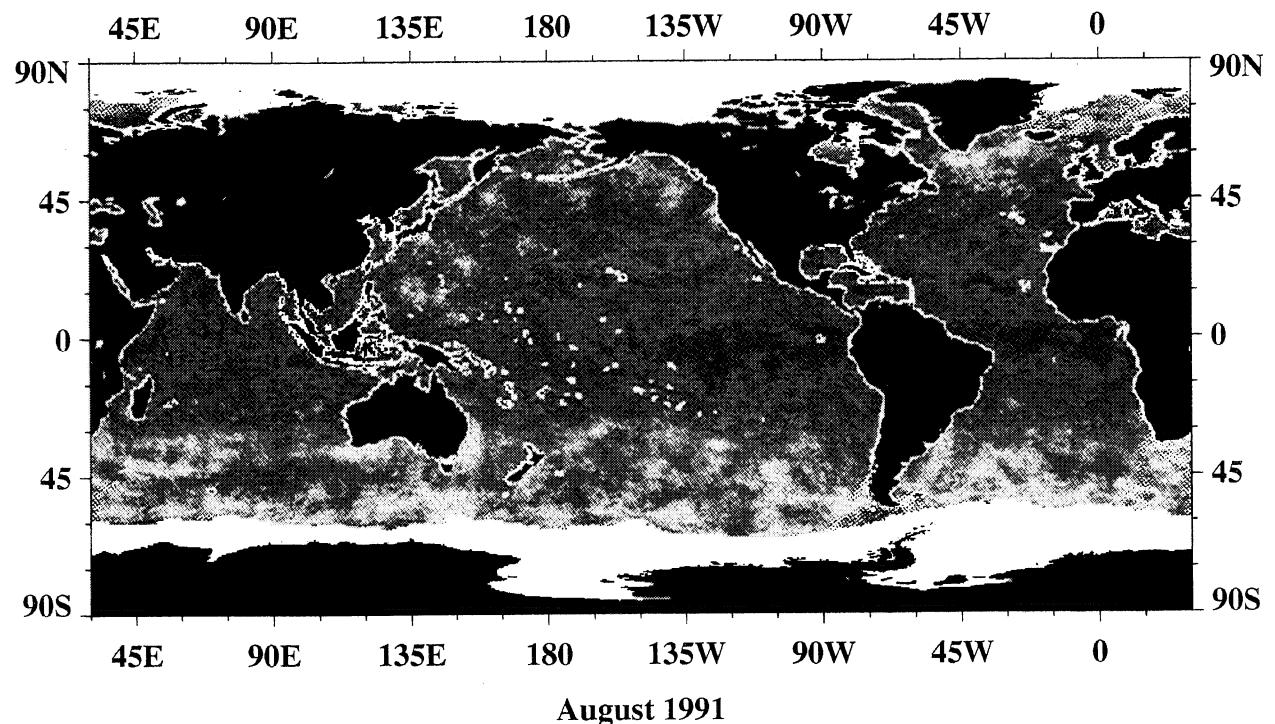


June 1991

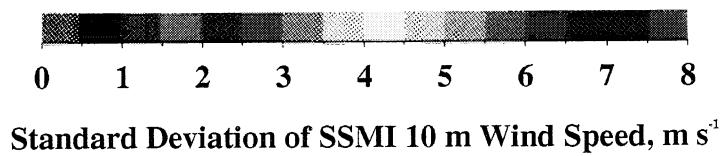


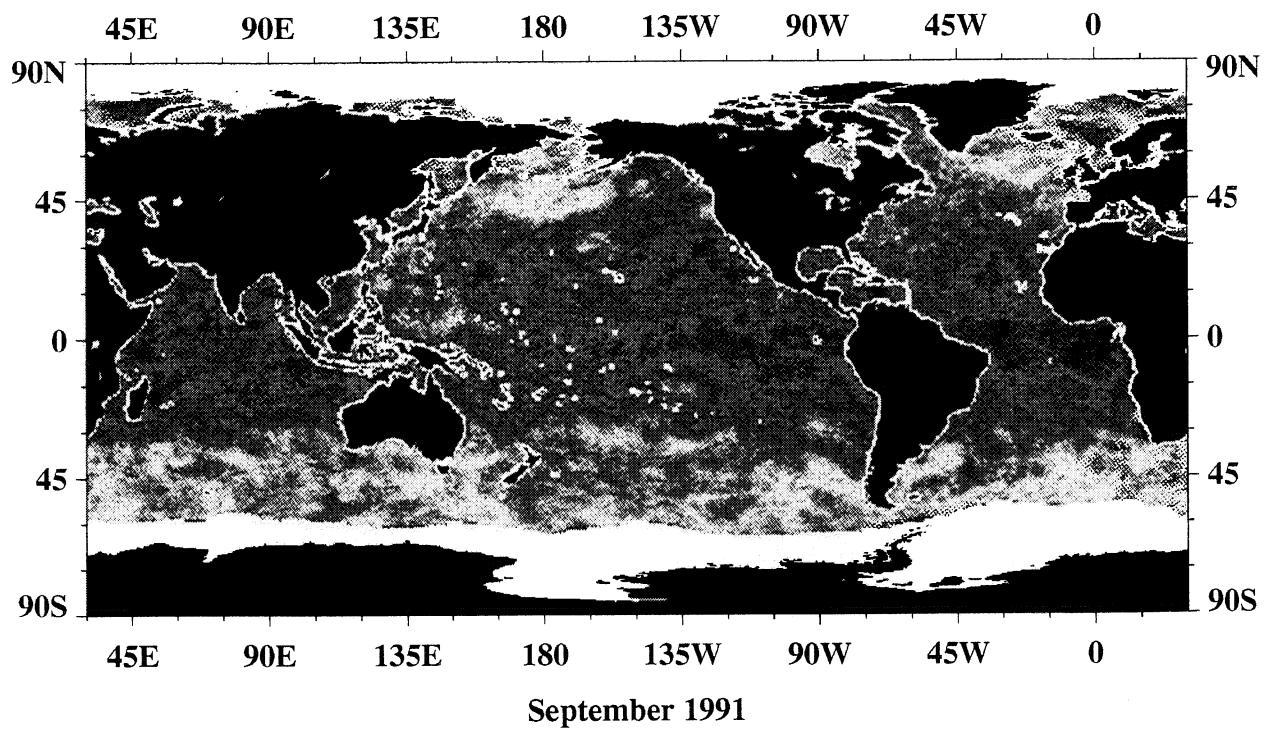


July 1991

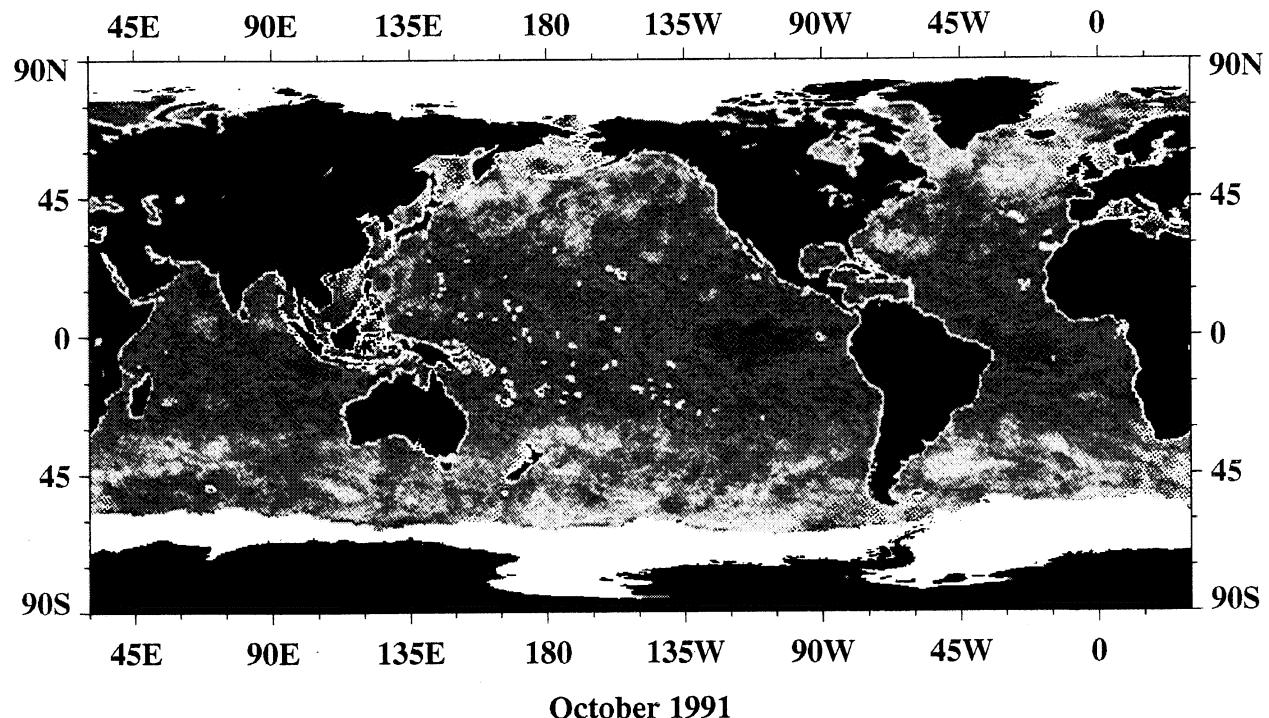


August 1991

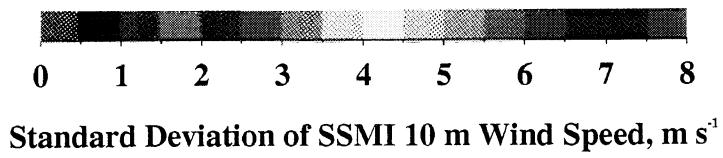


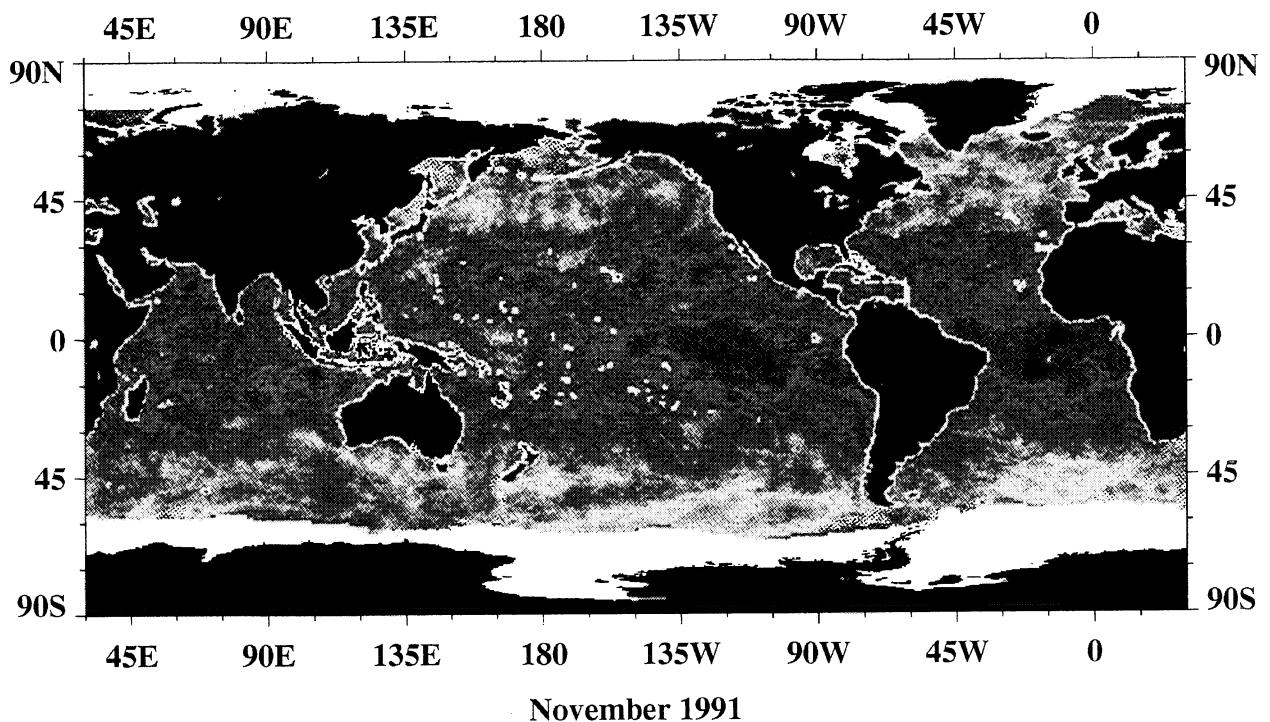


September 1991

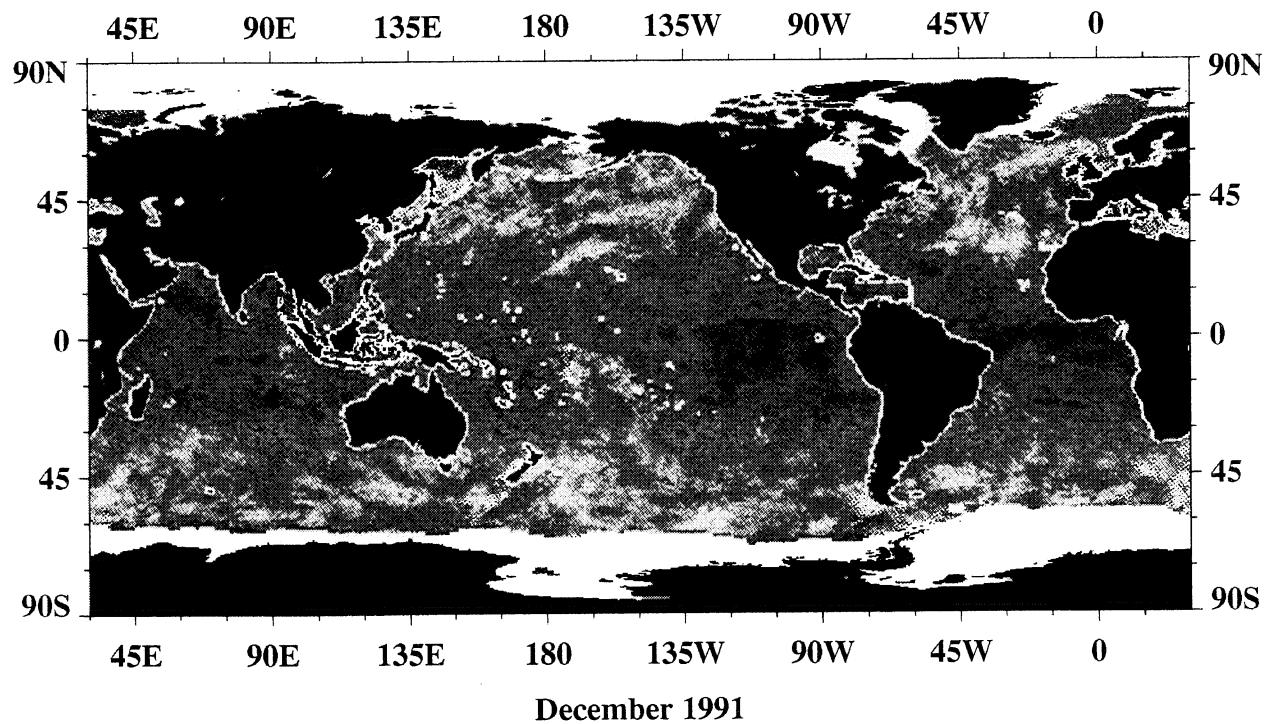


October 1991

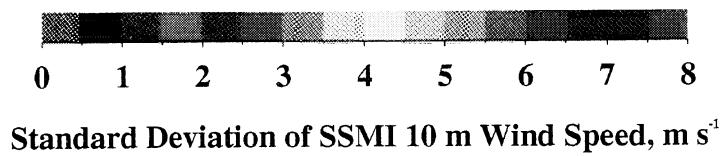




November 1991

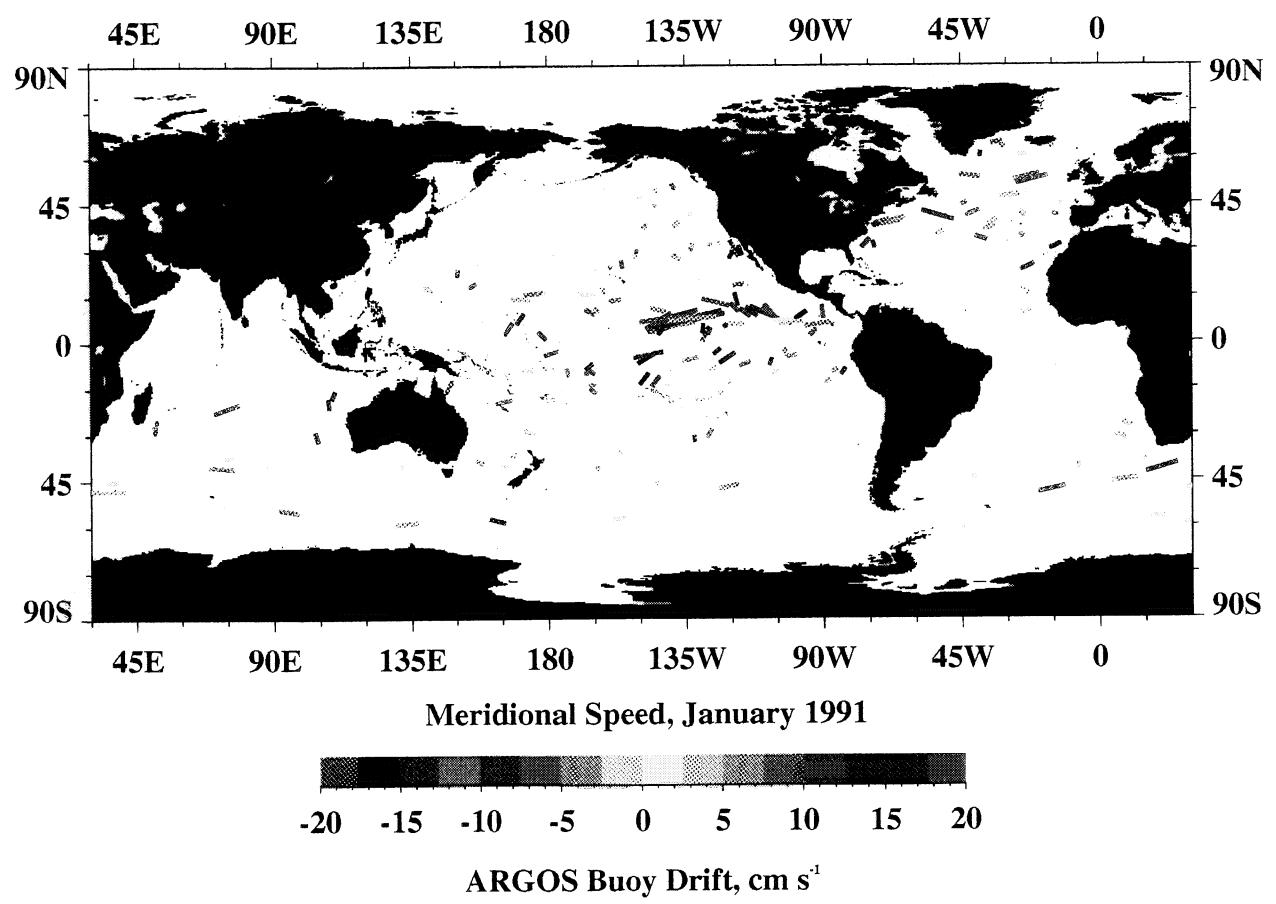
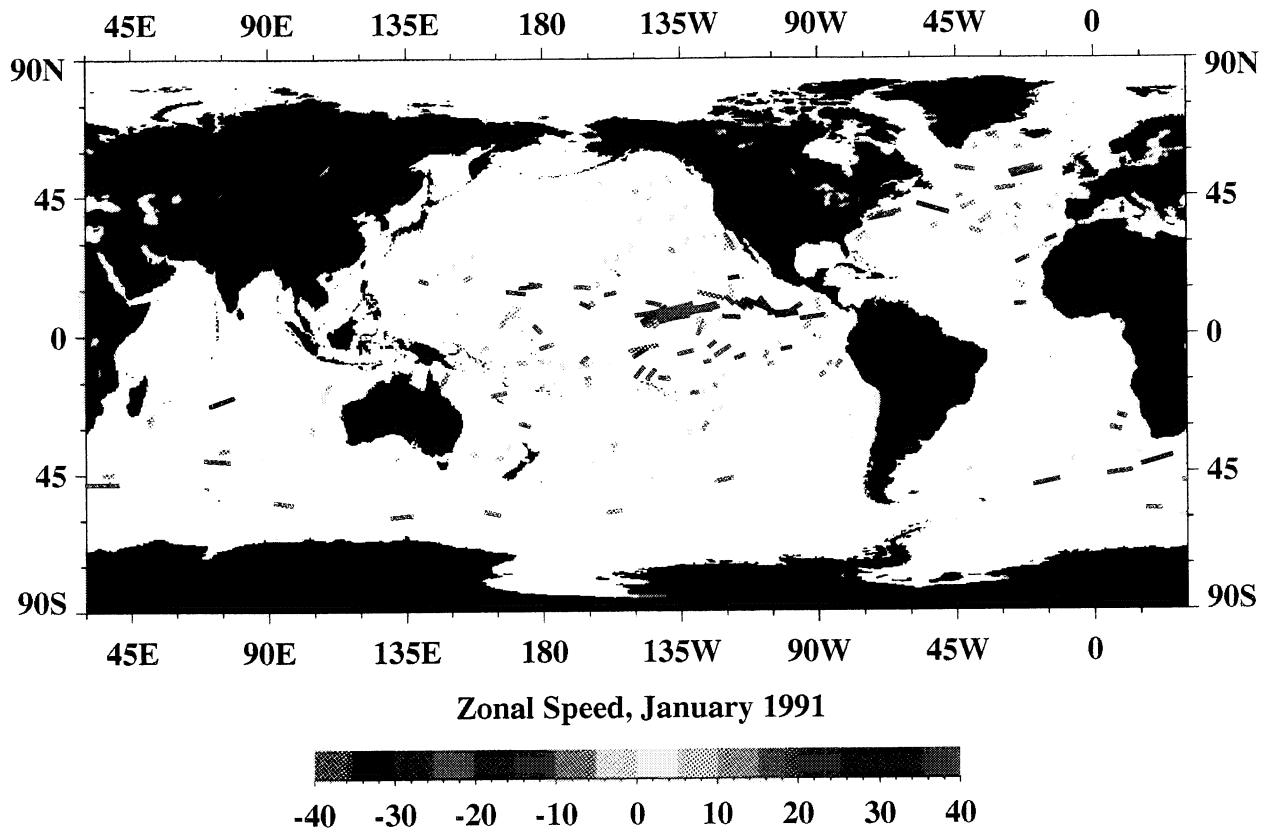


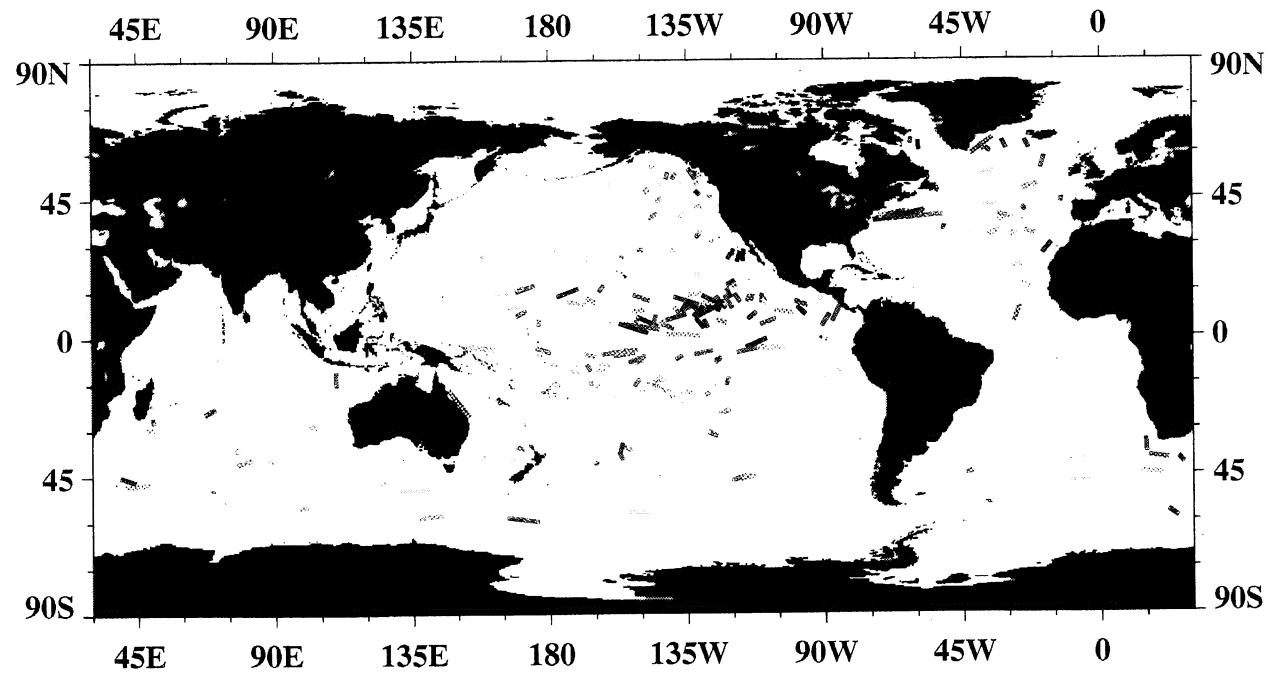
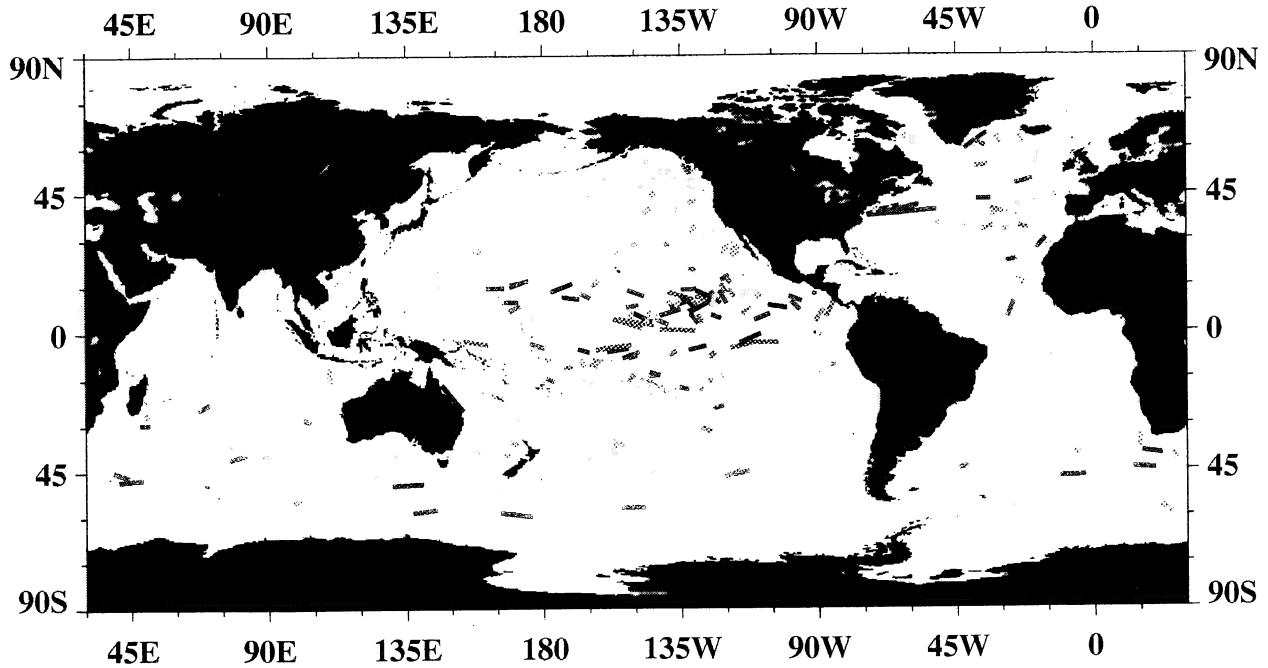
December 1991



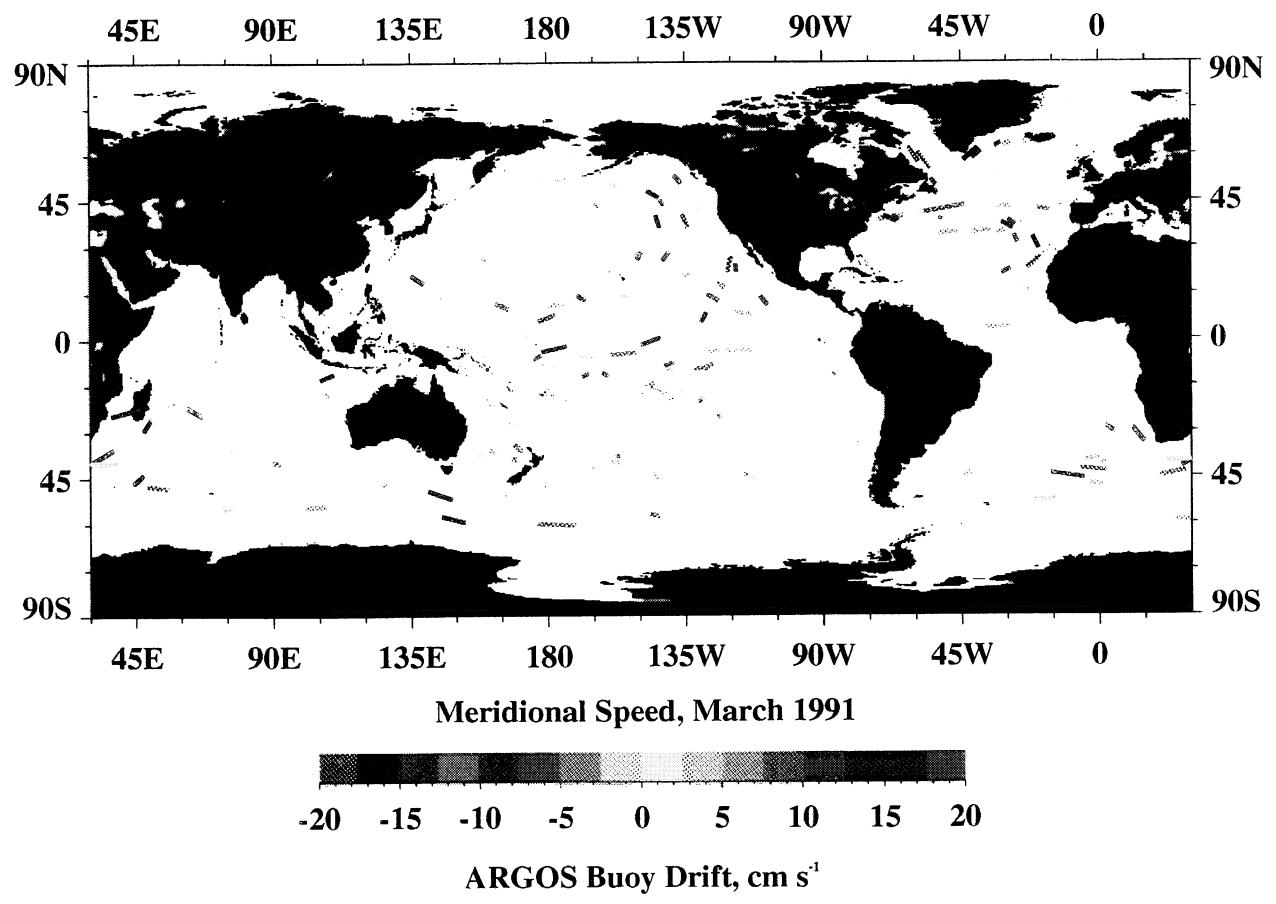
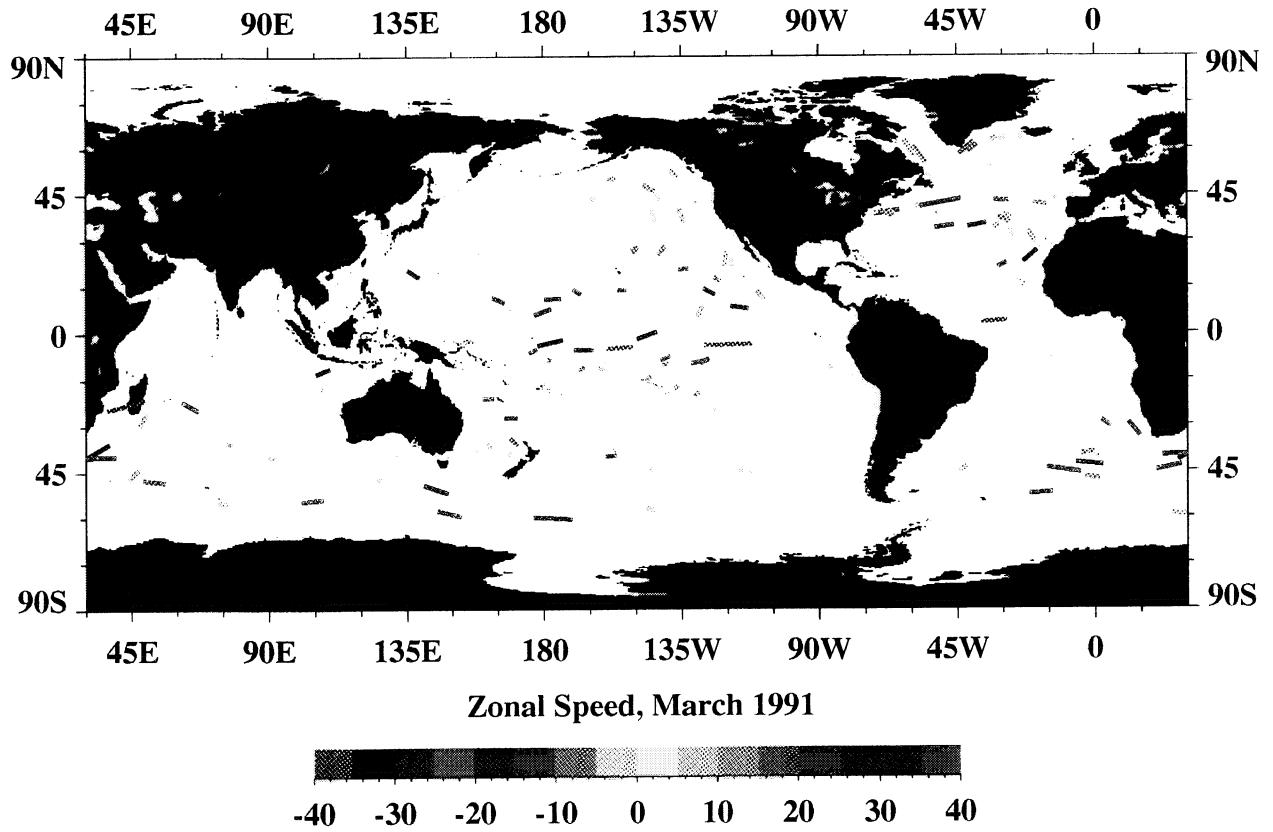
A5

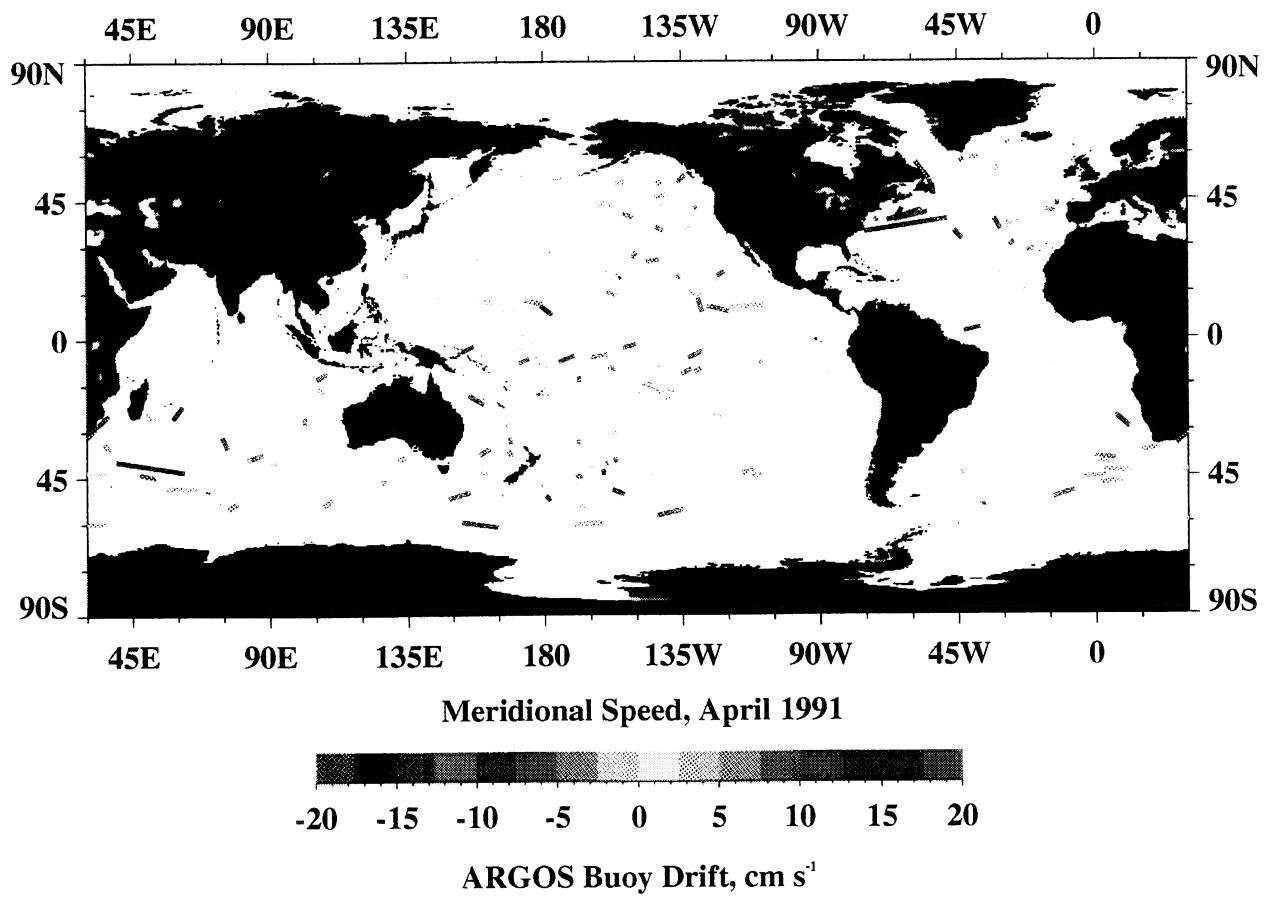
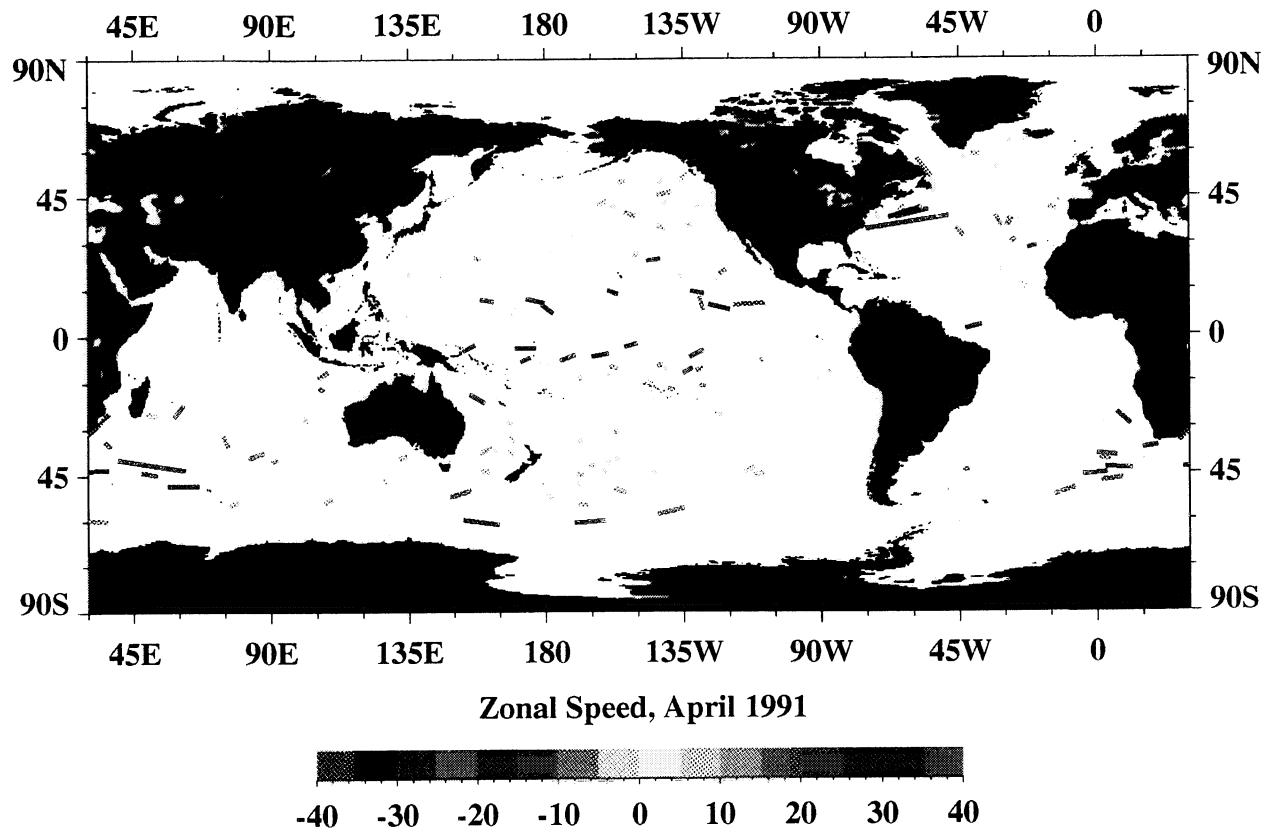
Monthly Mean ARGOS Buoy Drift

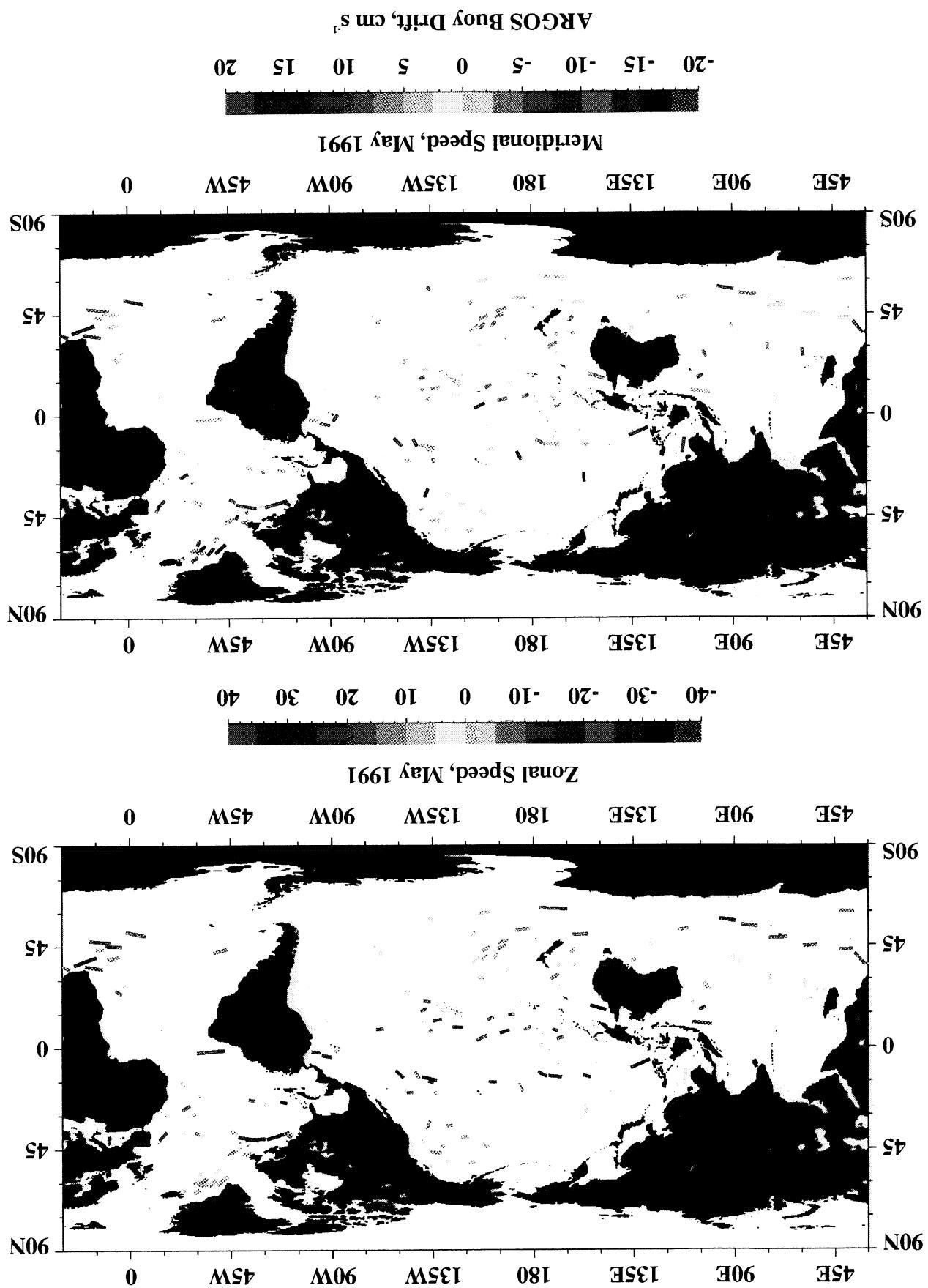


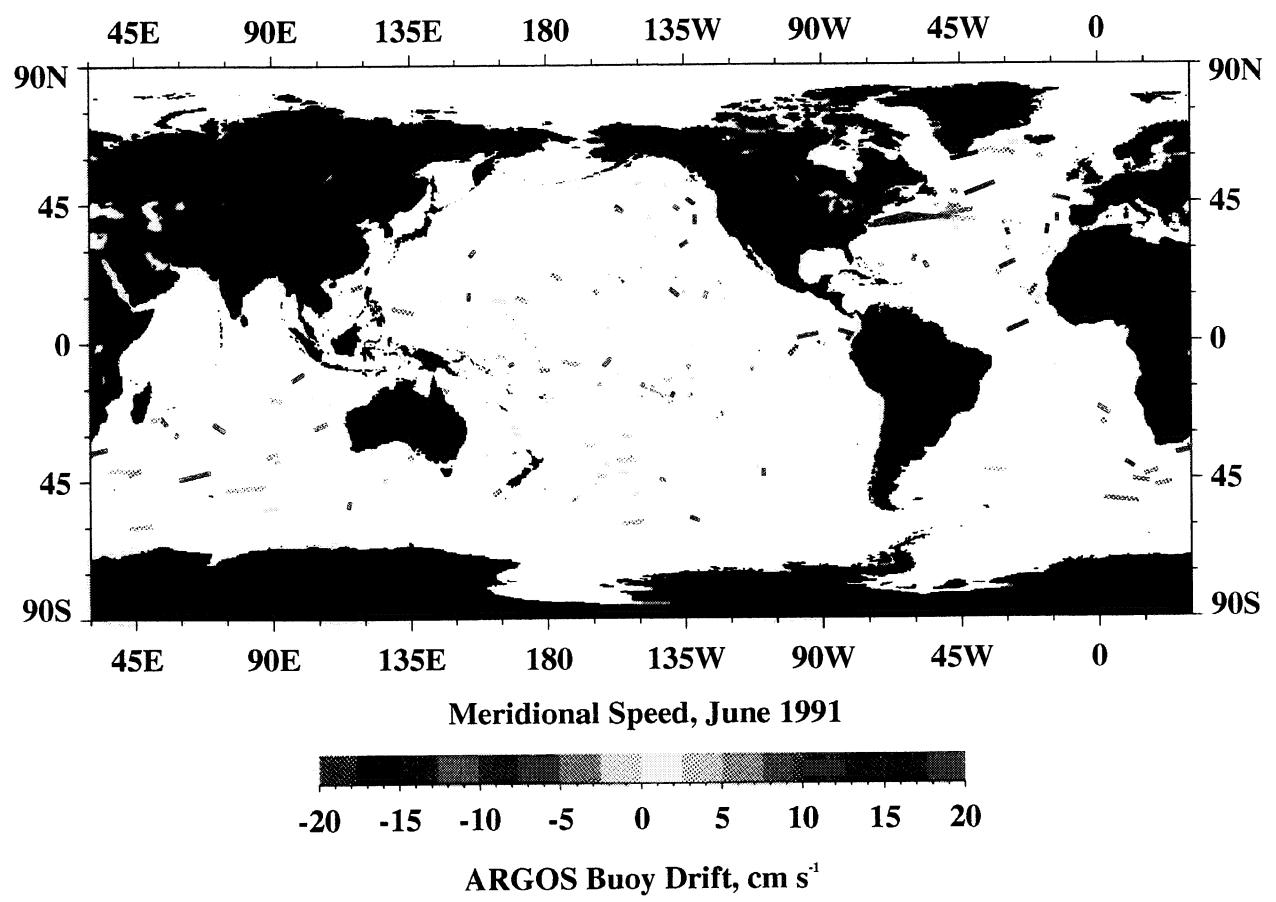
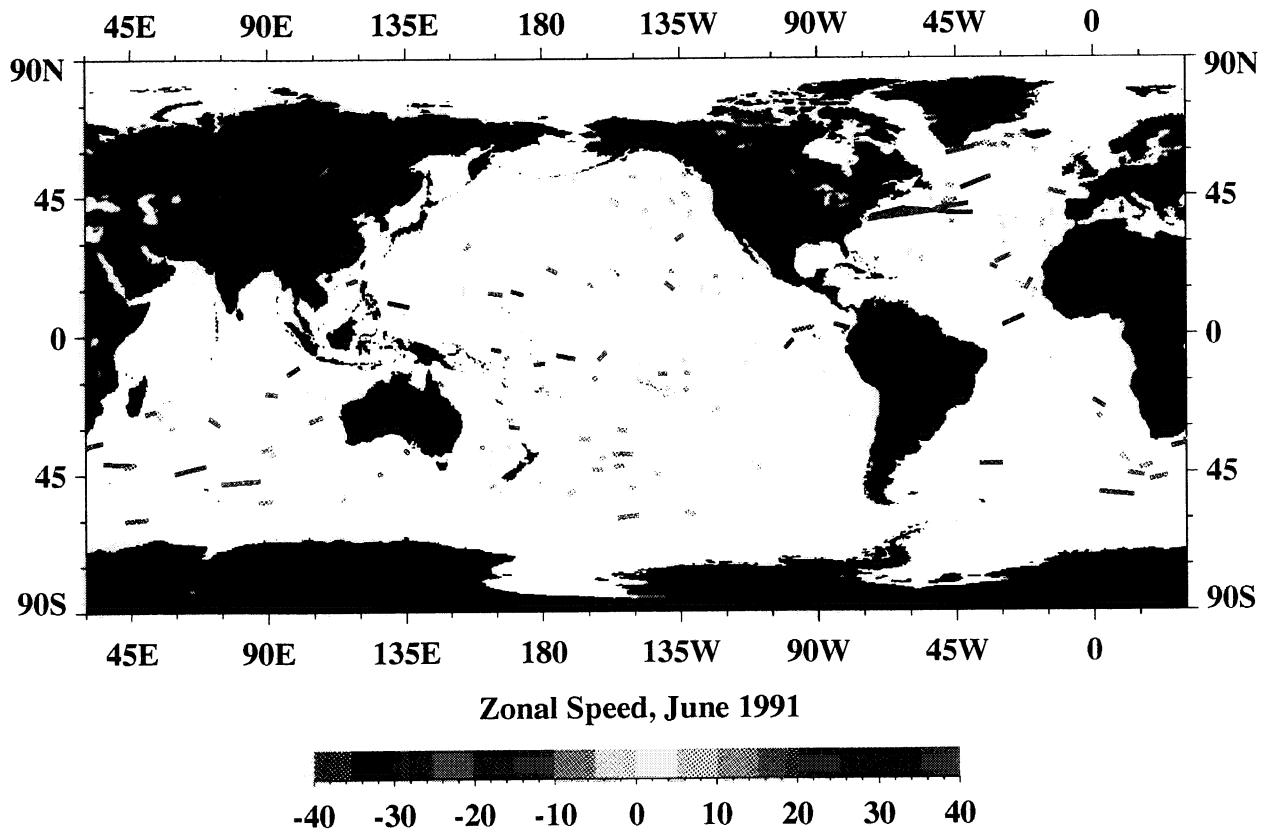


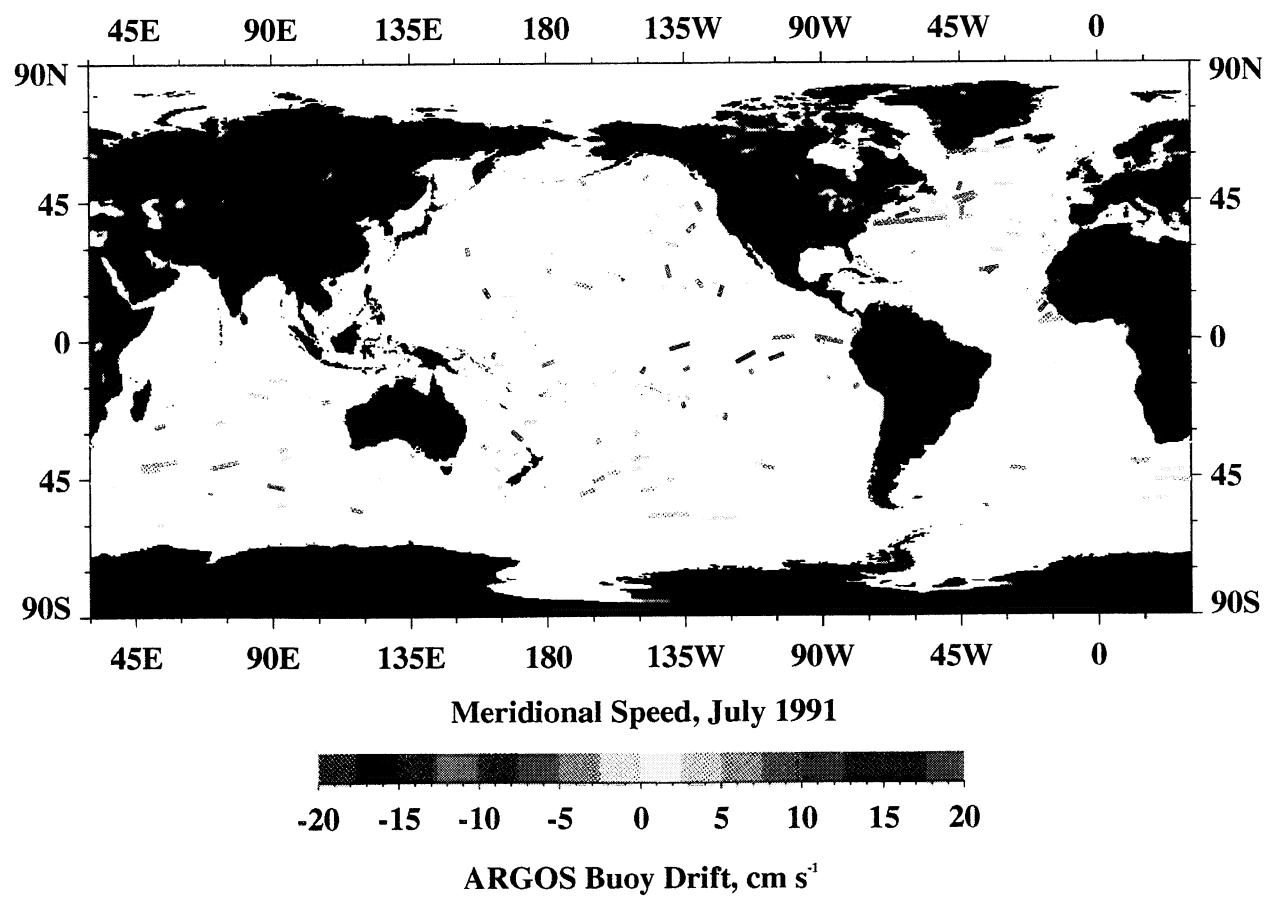
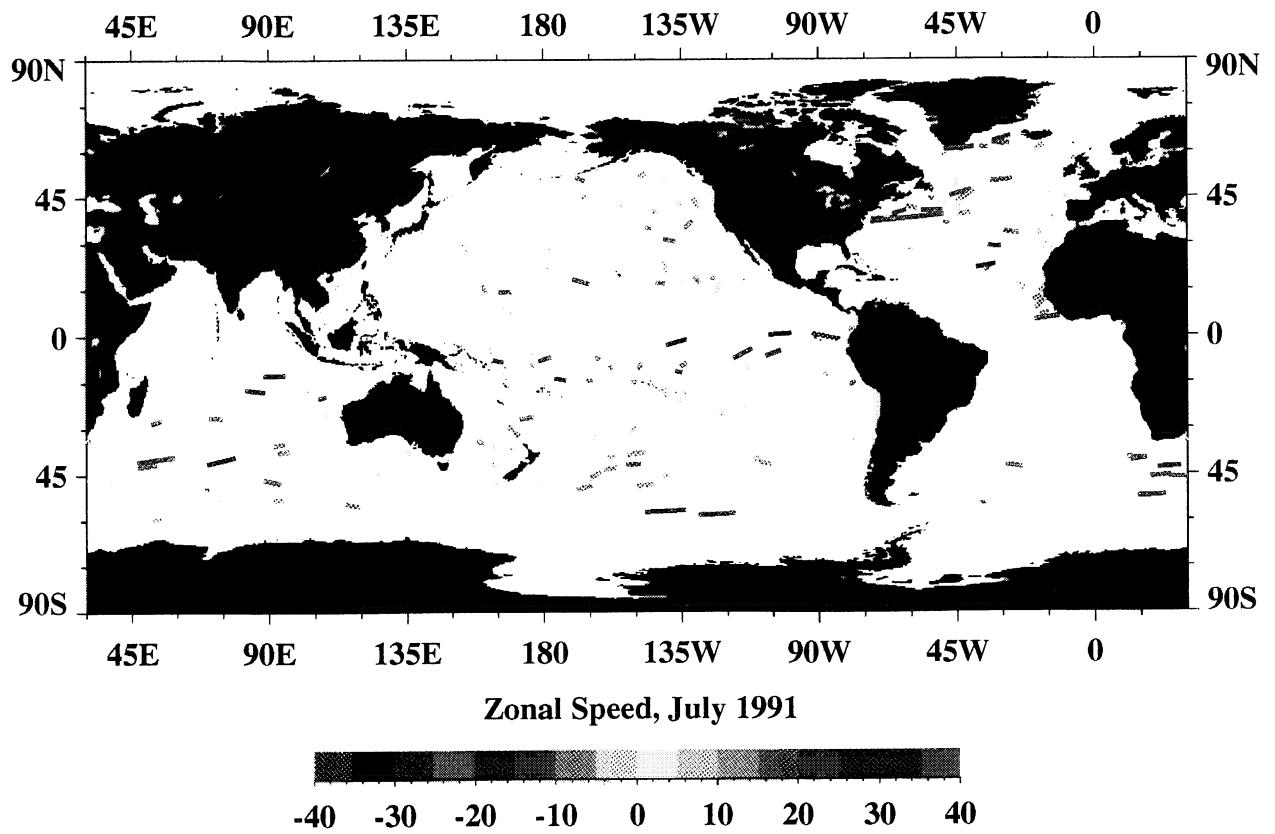
ARGOS Buoy Drift, cm s⁻¹

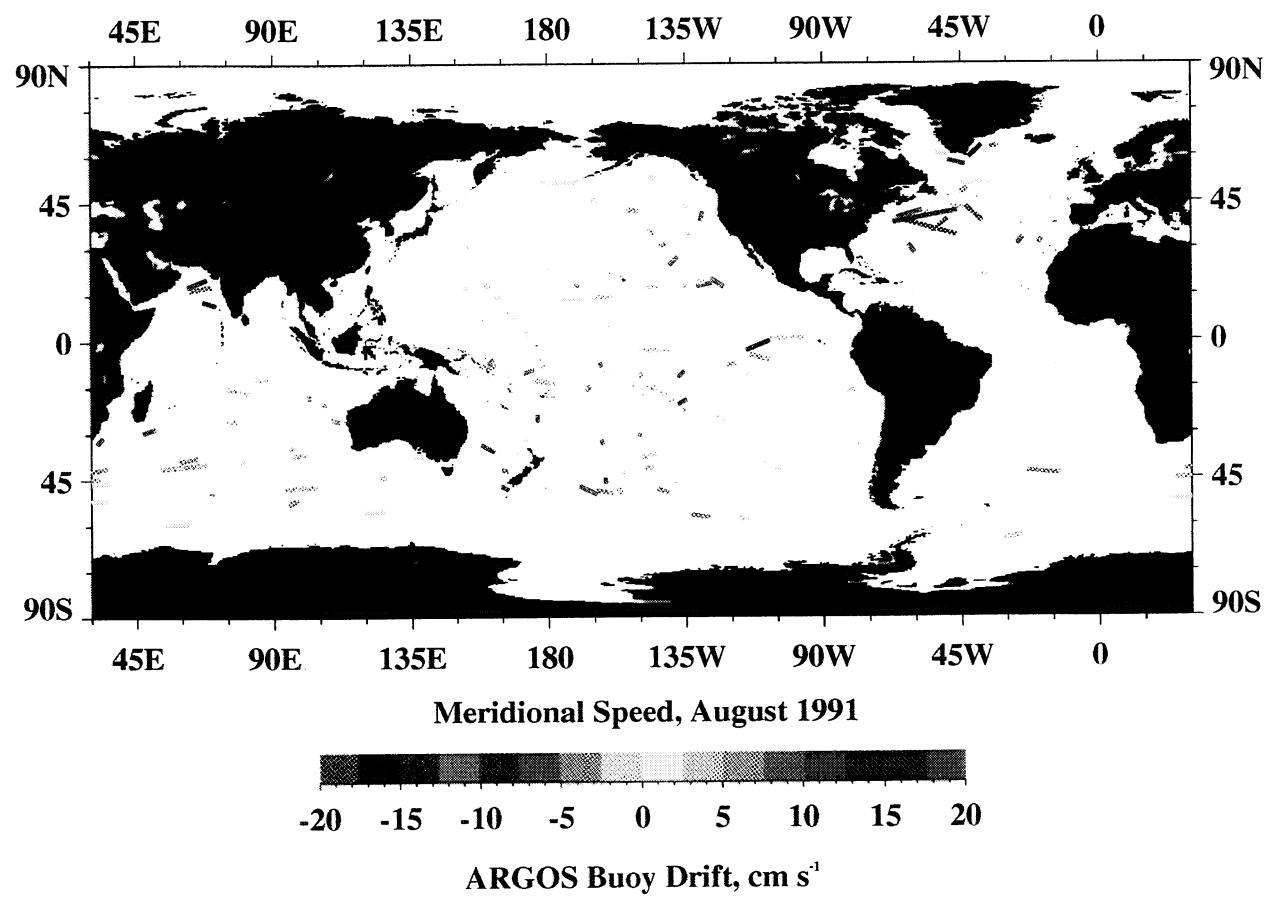
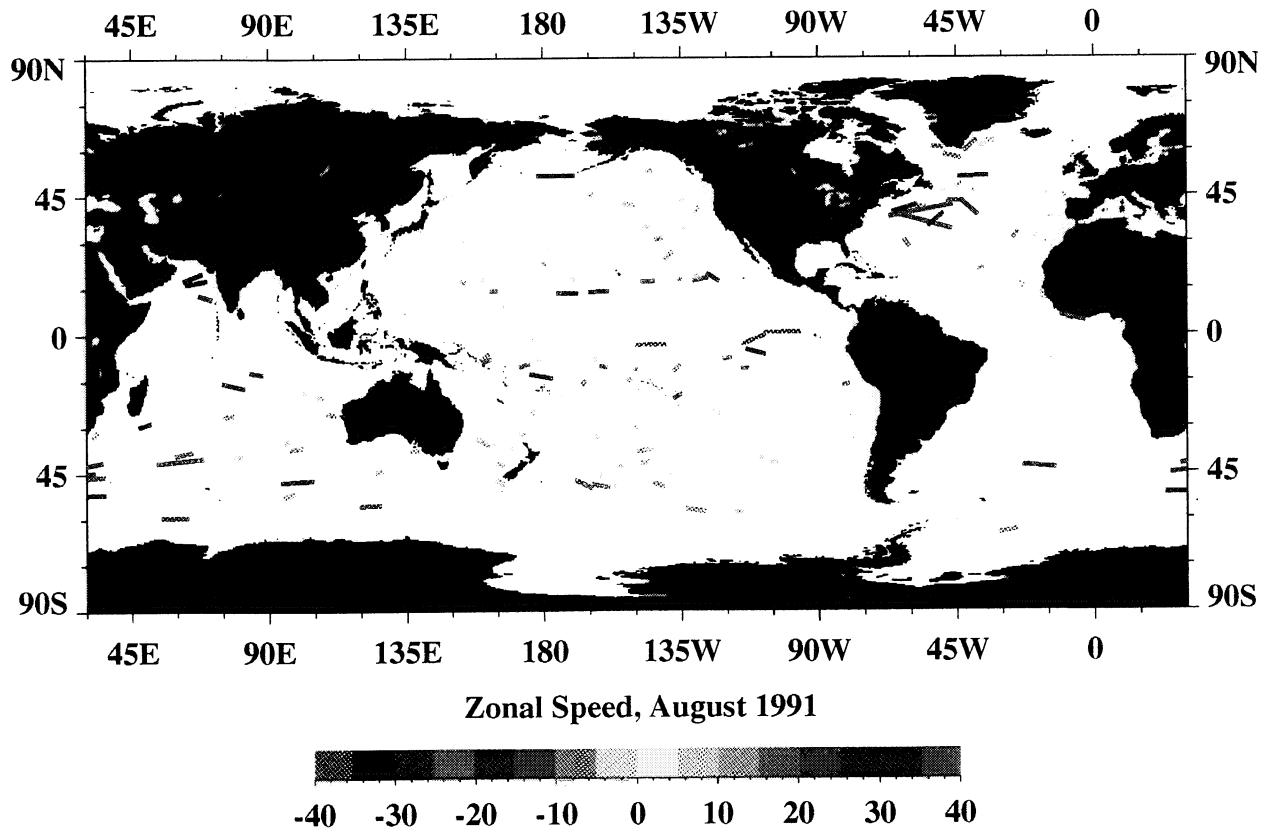


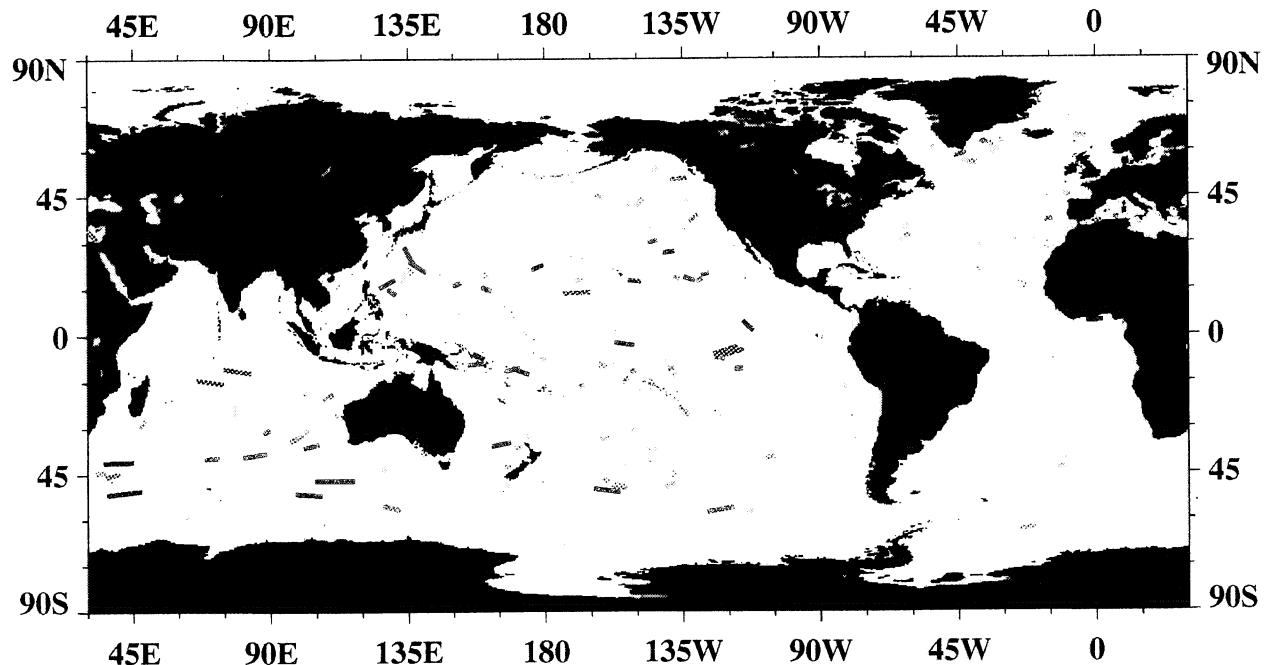




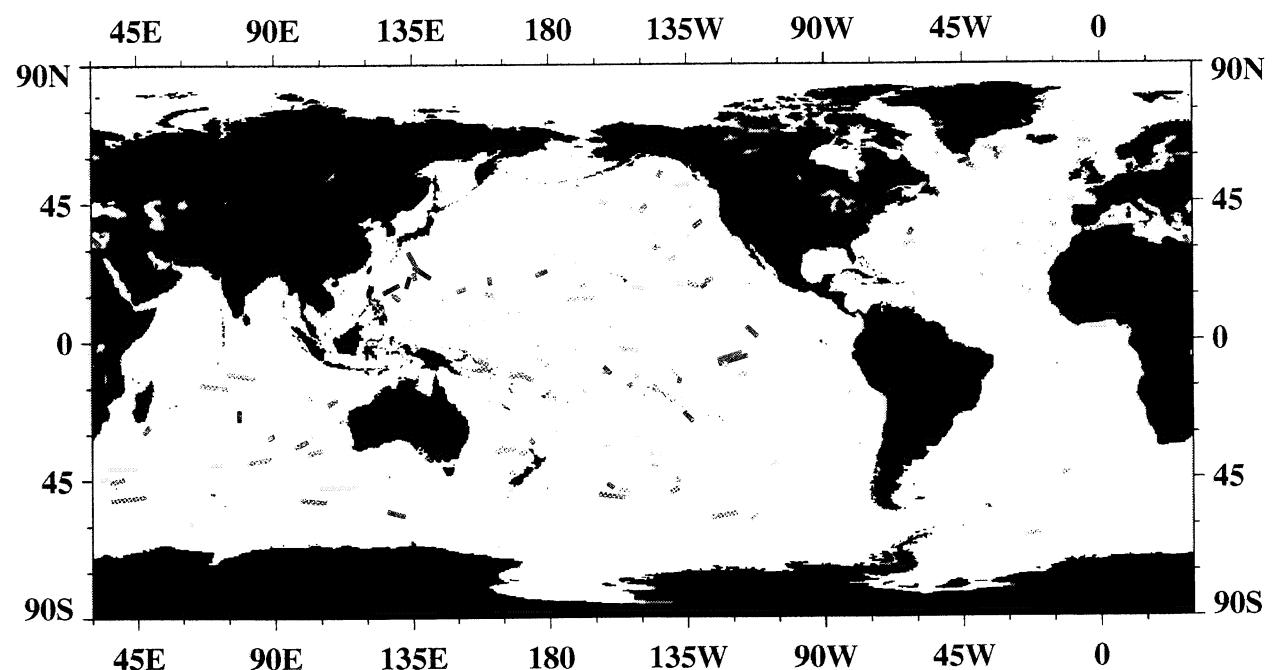




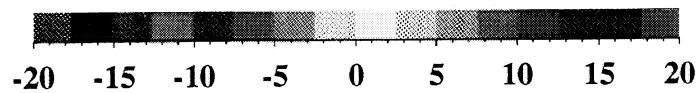




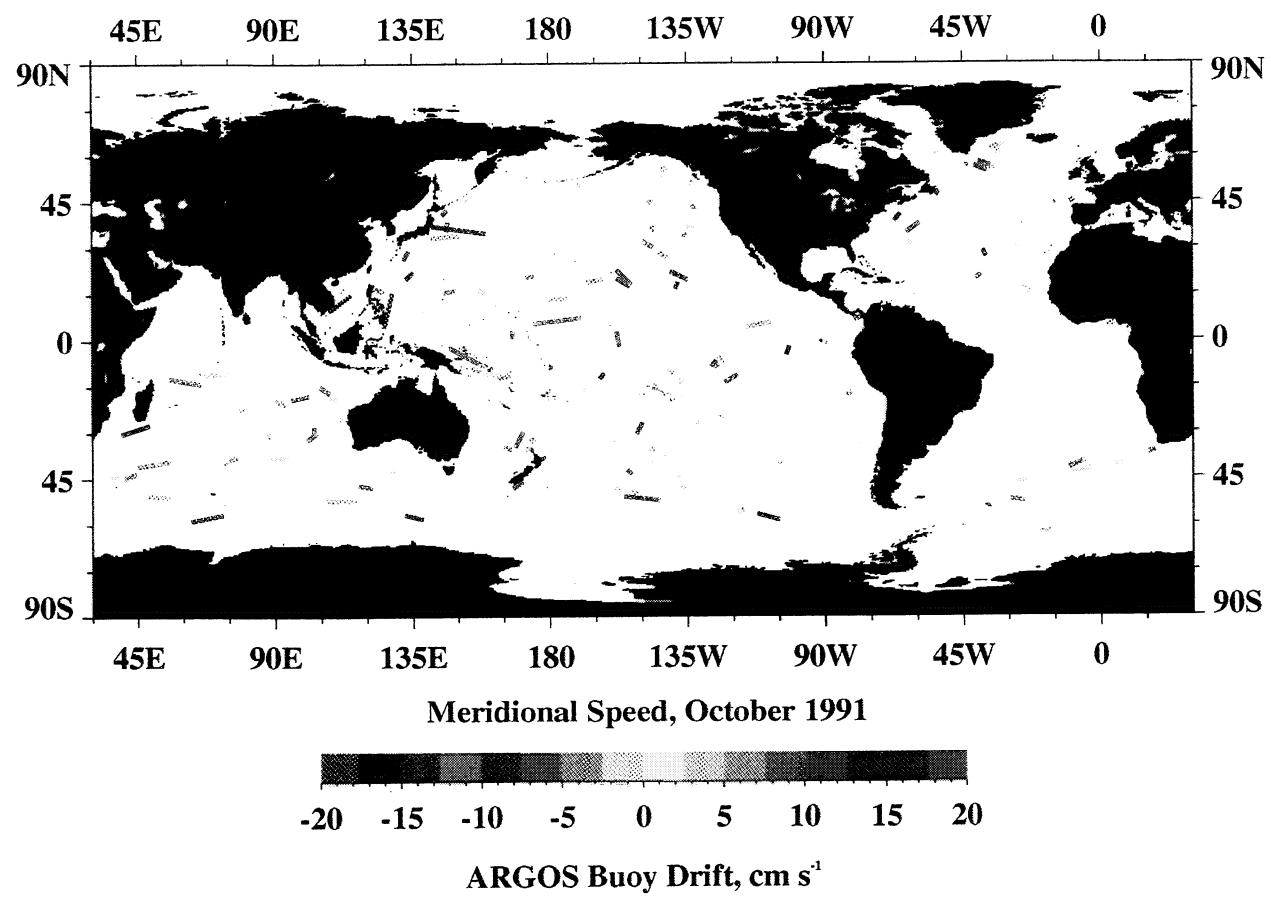
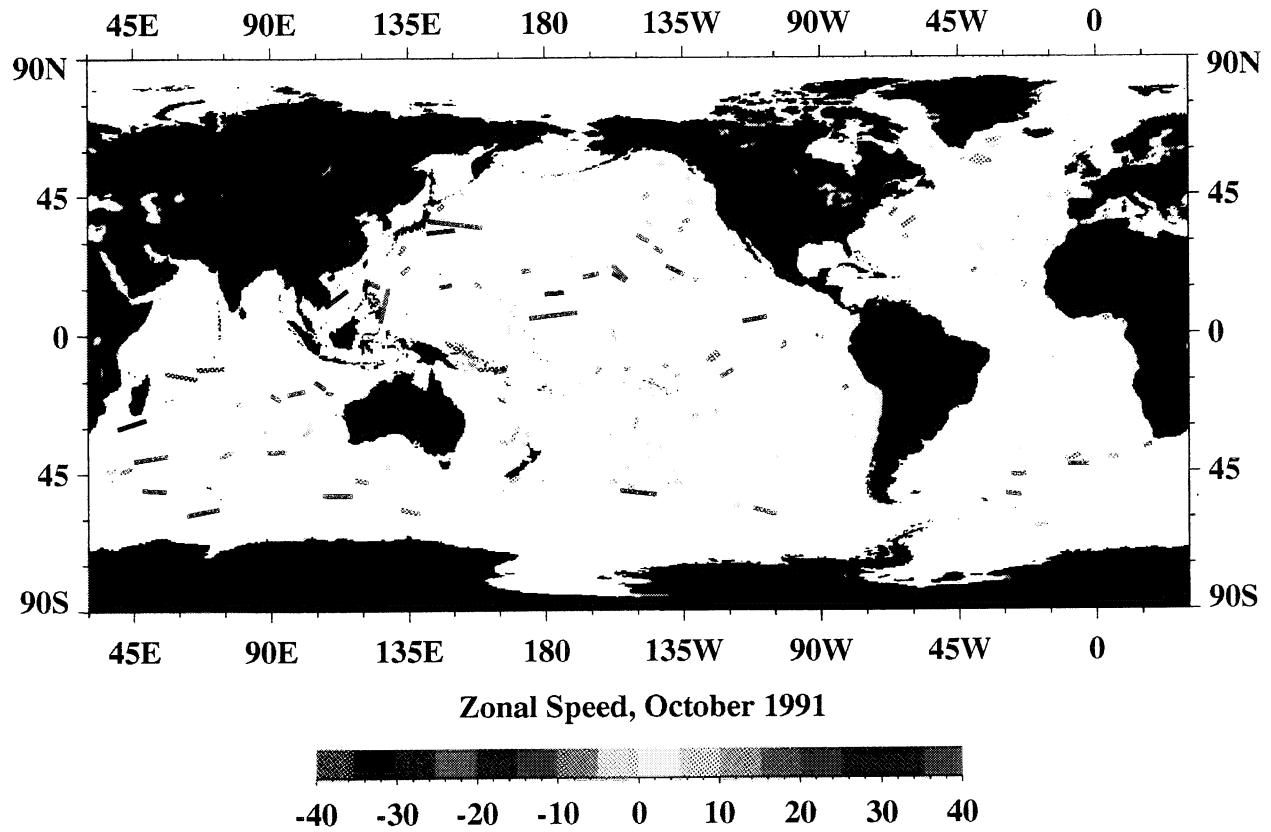
Zonal Speed, September 1991

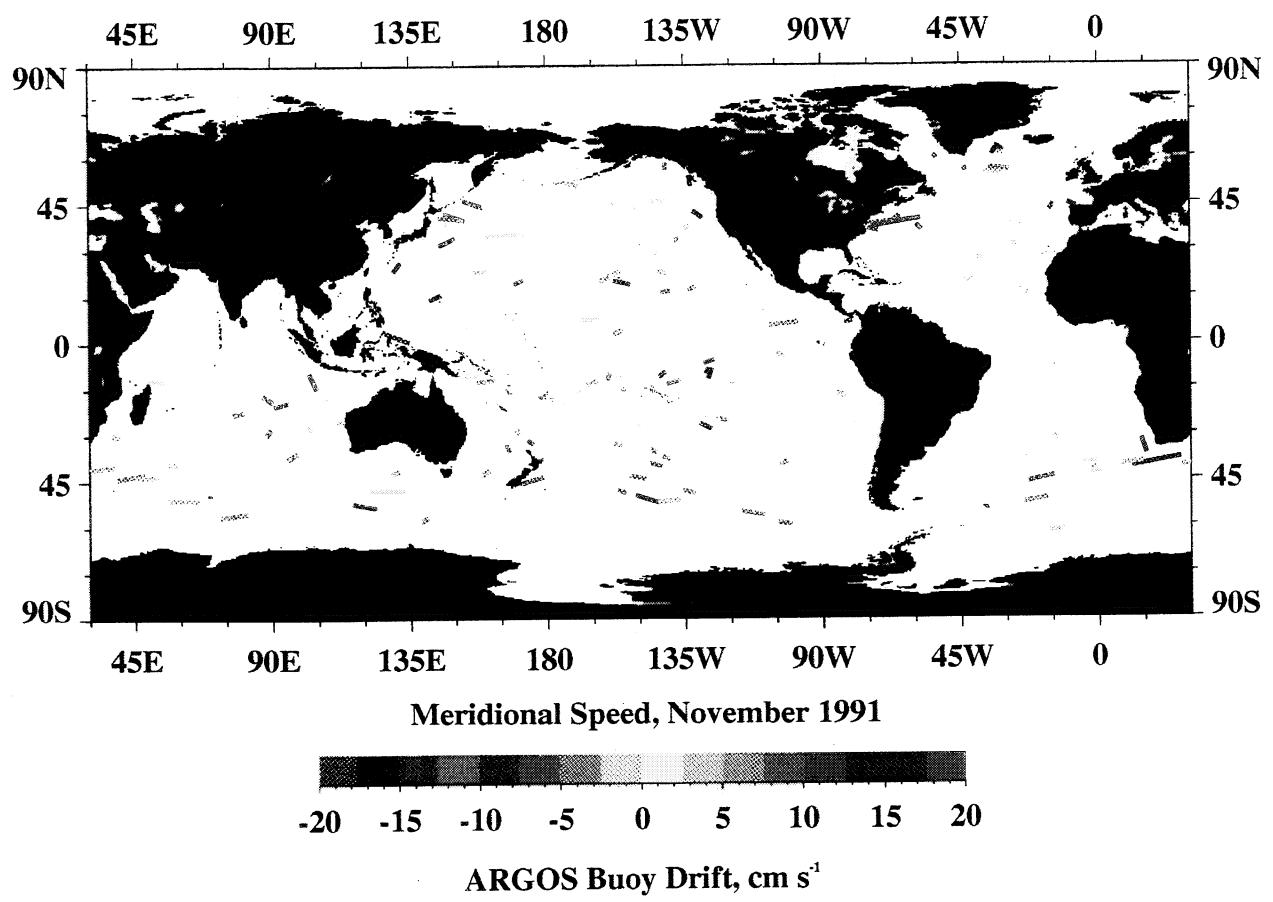
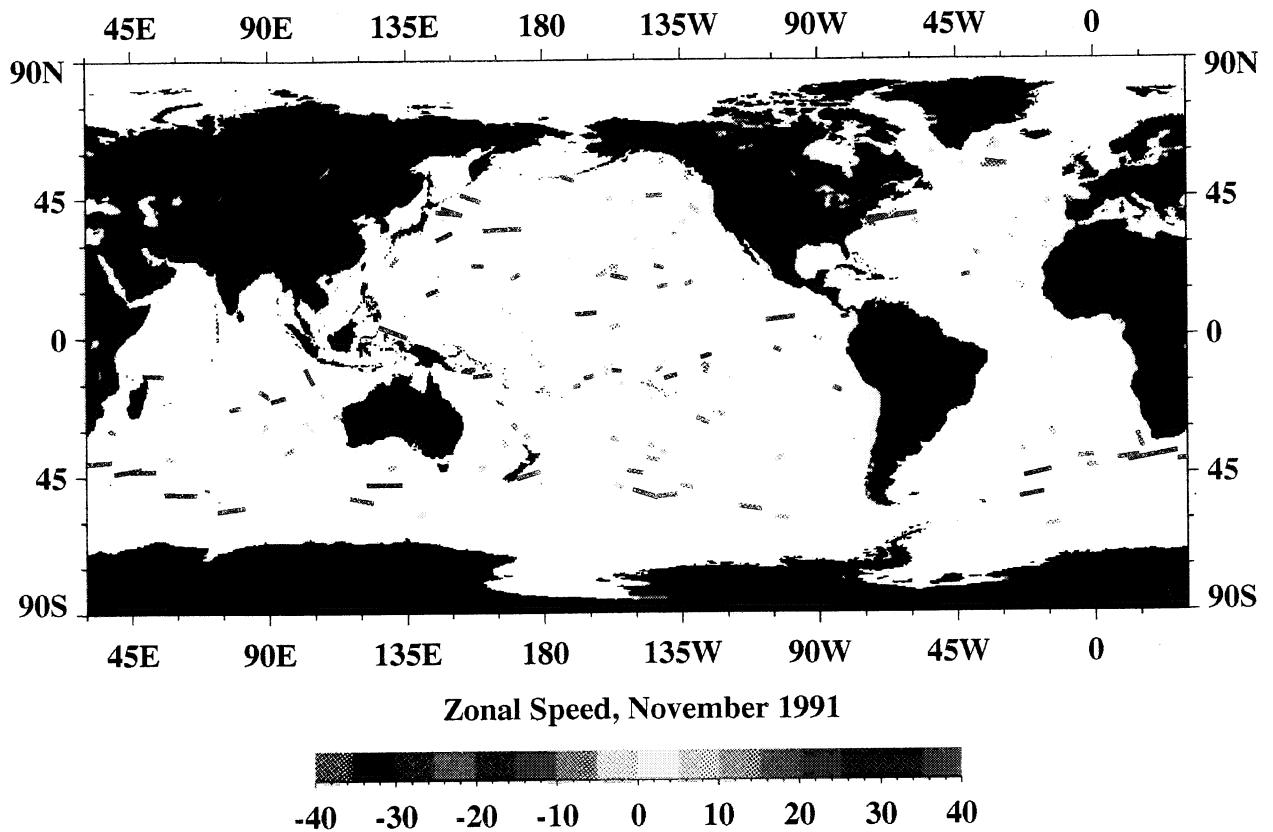


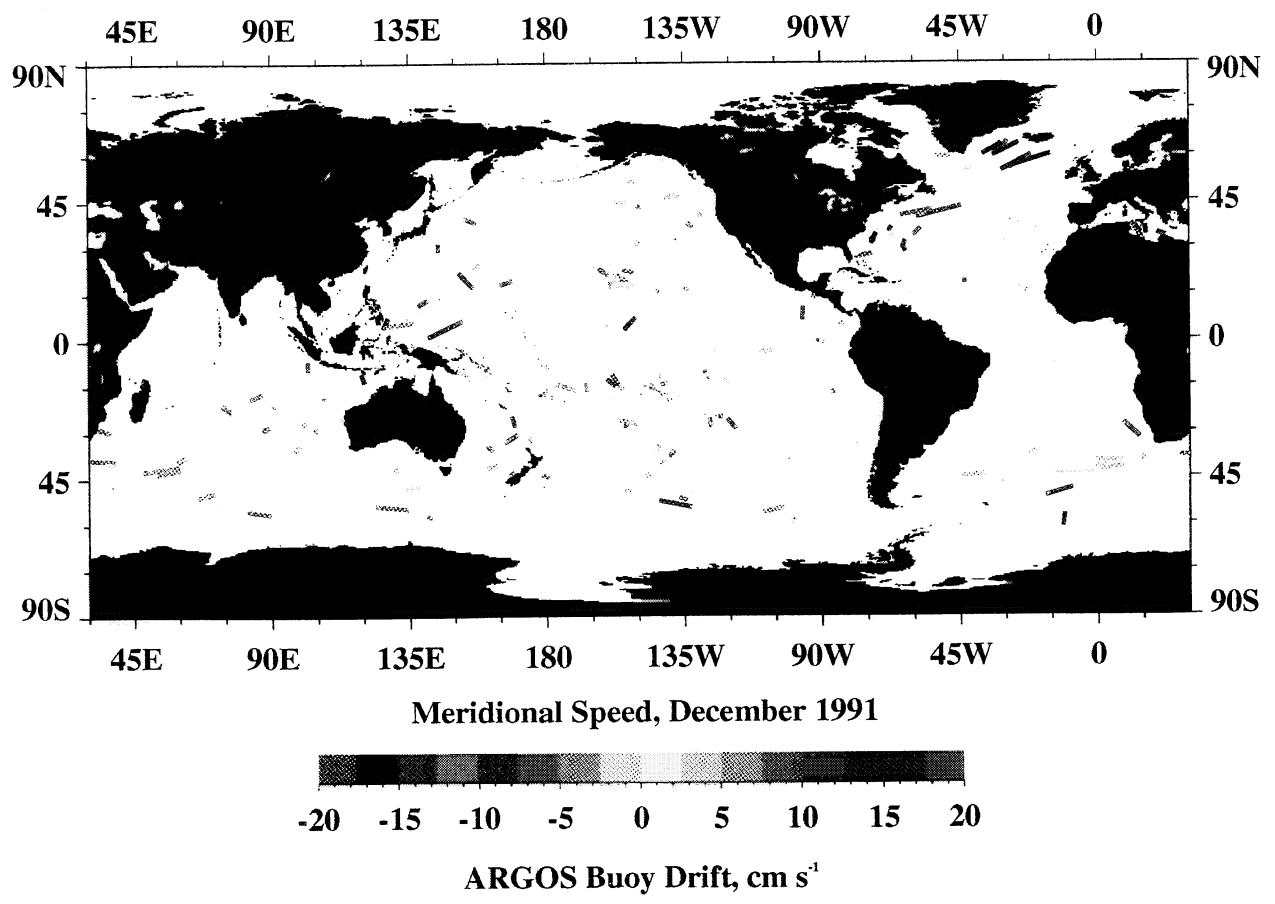
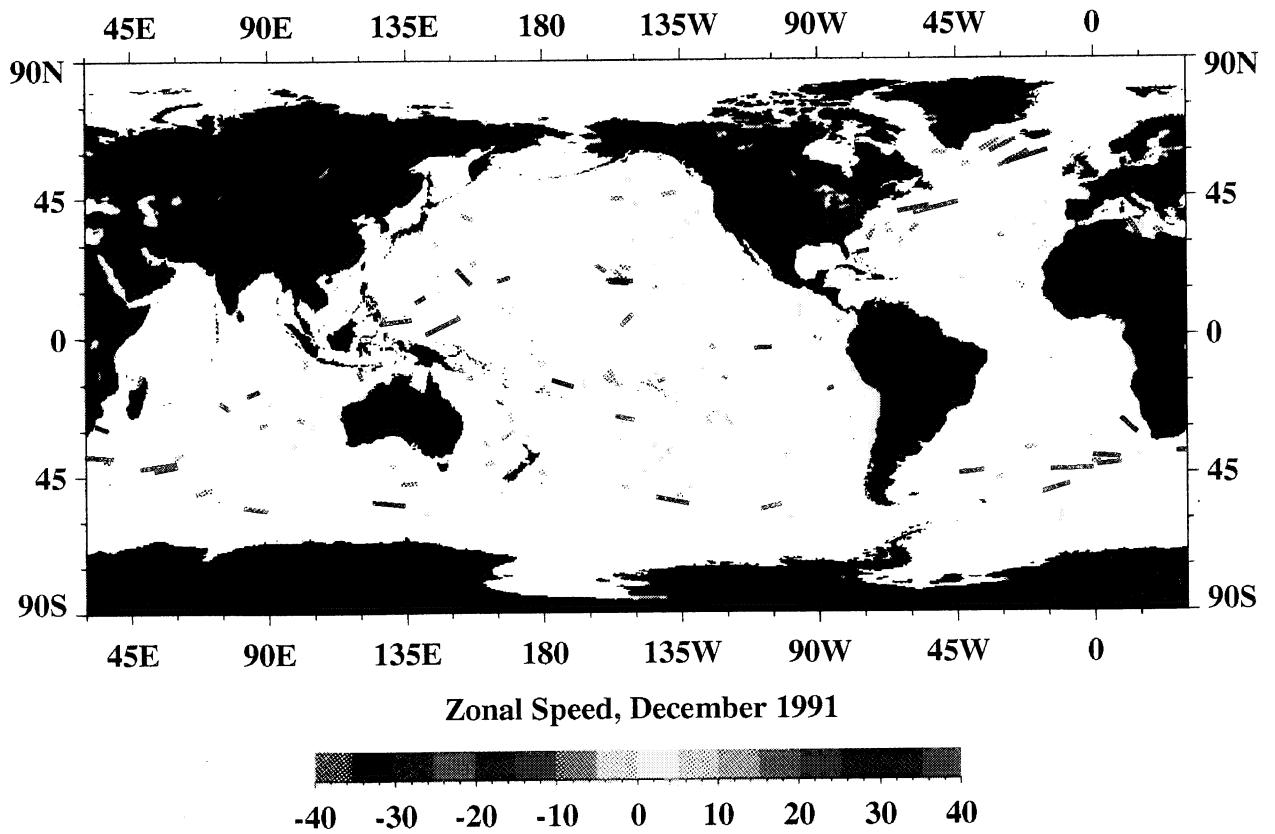
Meridional Speed, September 1991



ARGOS Buoy Drift, cm s⁻¹

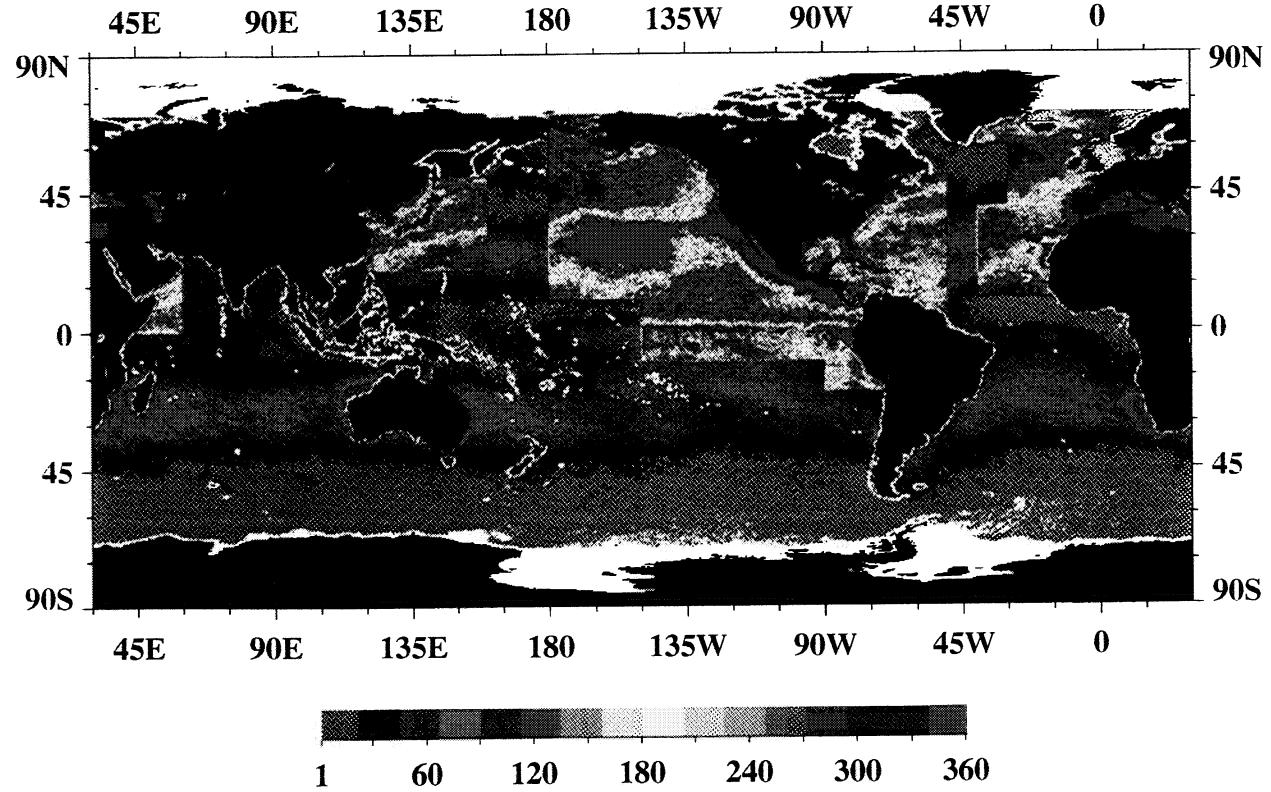
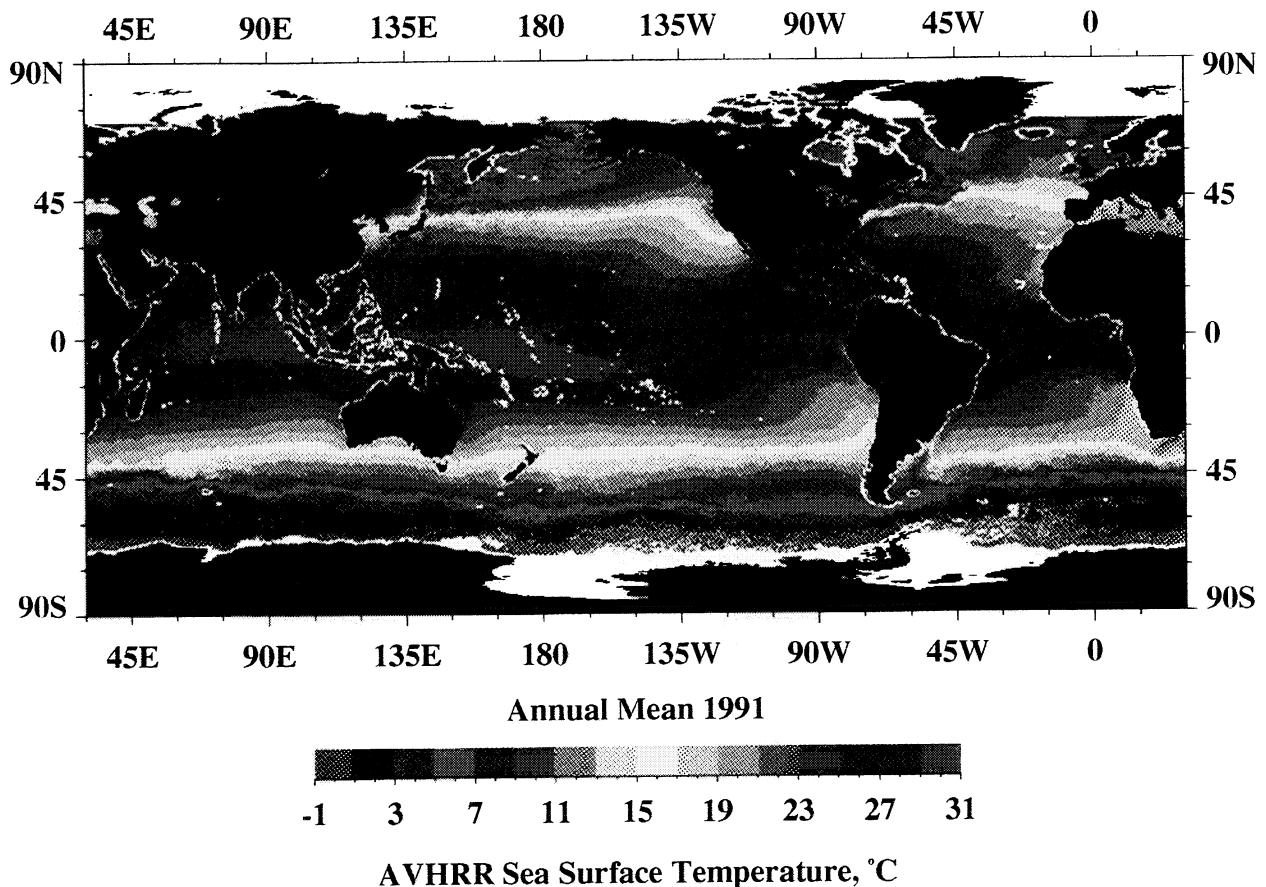






A6

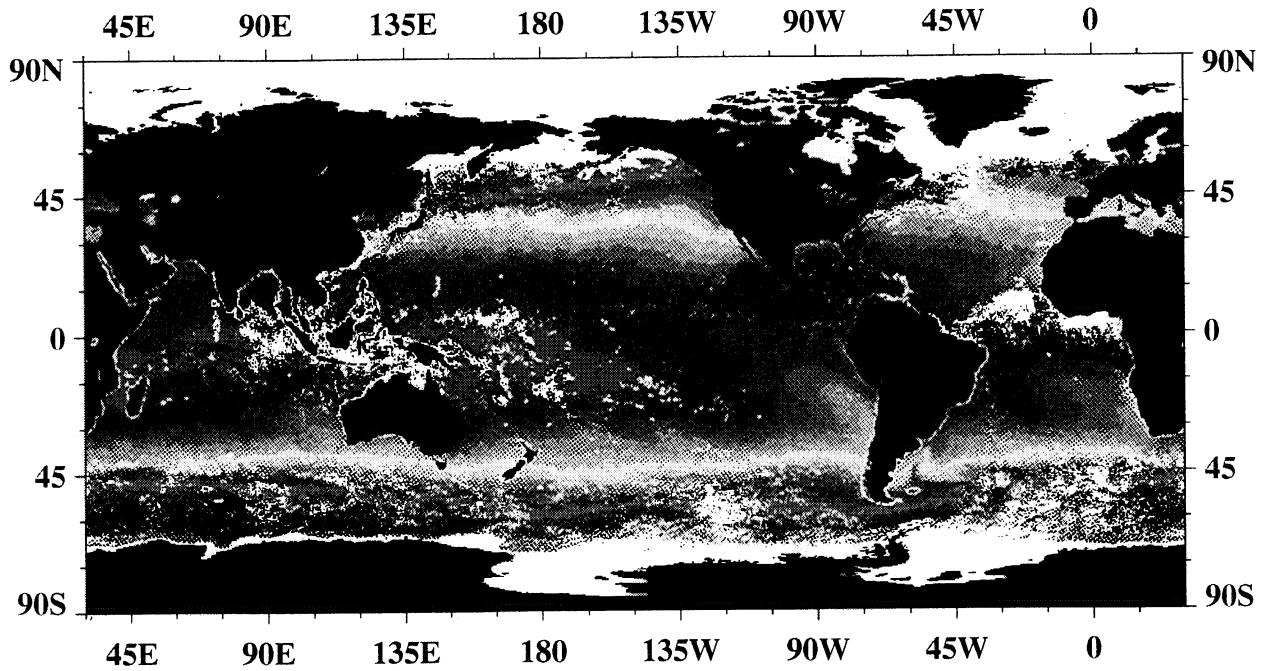
Annual Mean and Sampling Distribution of AVHRR/2 Sea Surface Temperature



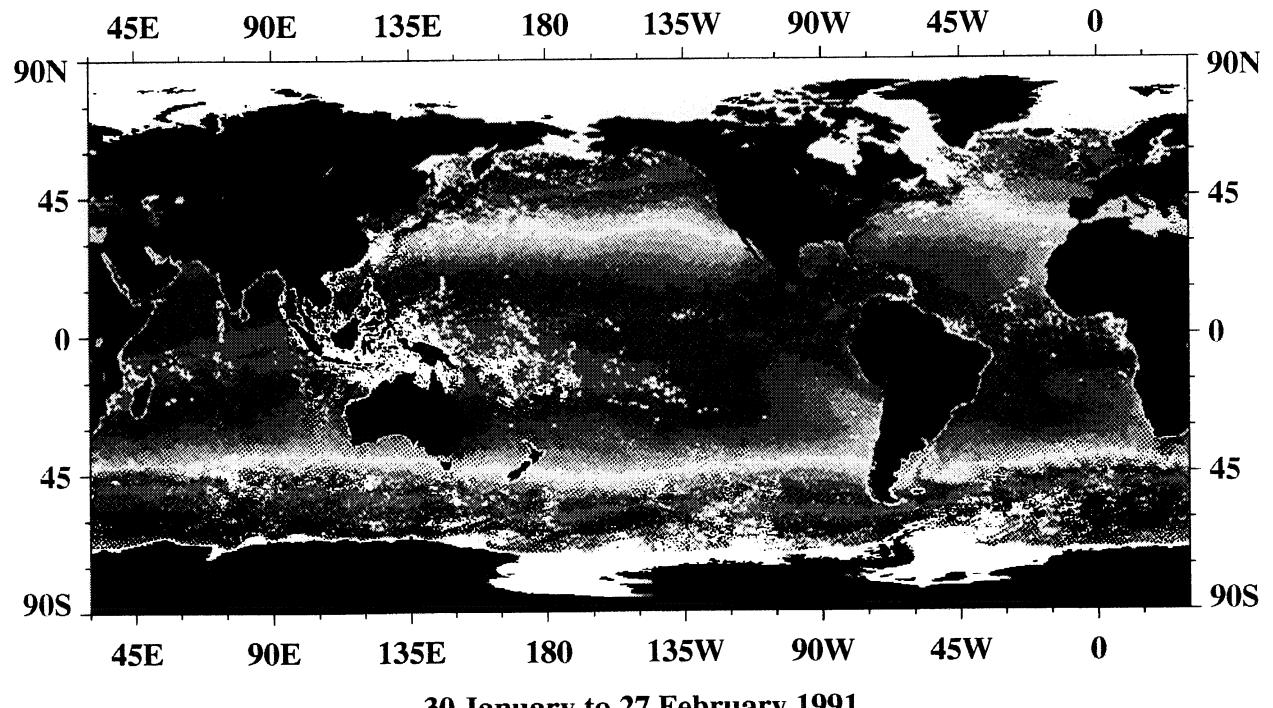
Number of Sea Surface Temperature Values per Pixel During 1991, max = 1665

A7

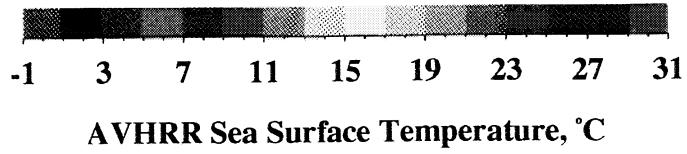
28-Day Mean AVHRR/2 Sea Surface Temperature



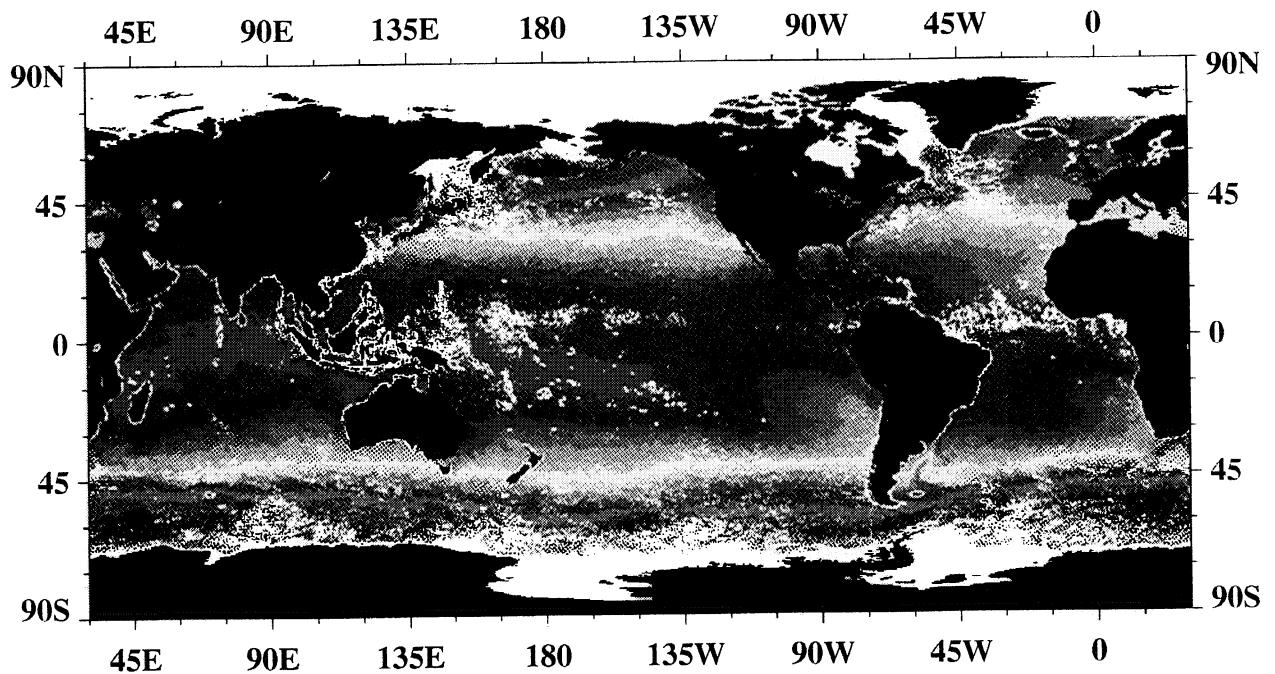
3 January to 30 January 1991



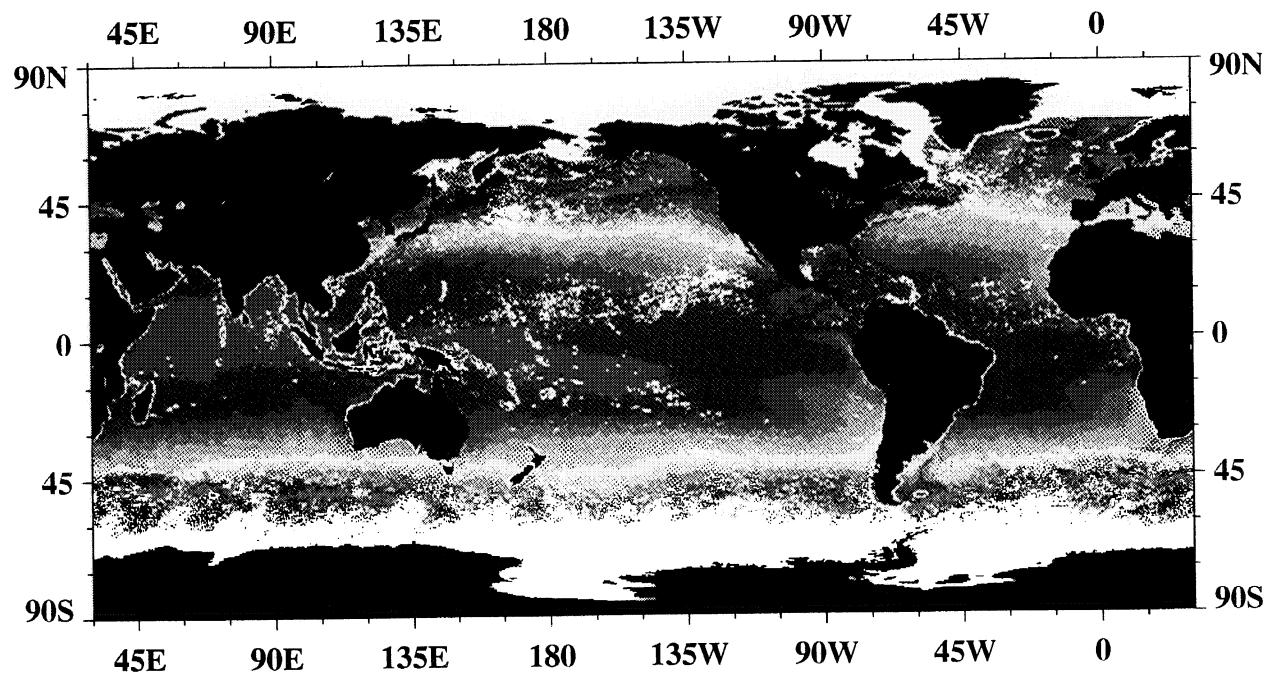
30 January to 27 February 1991



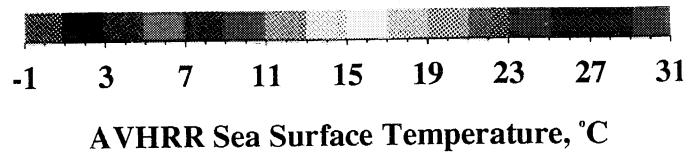
AVHRR Sea Surface Temperature, °C



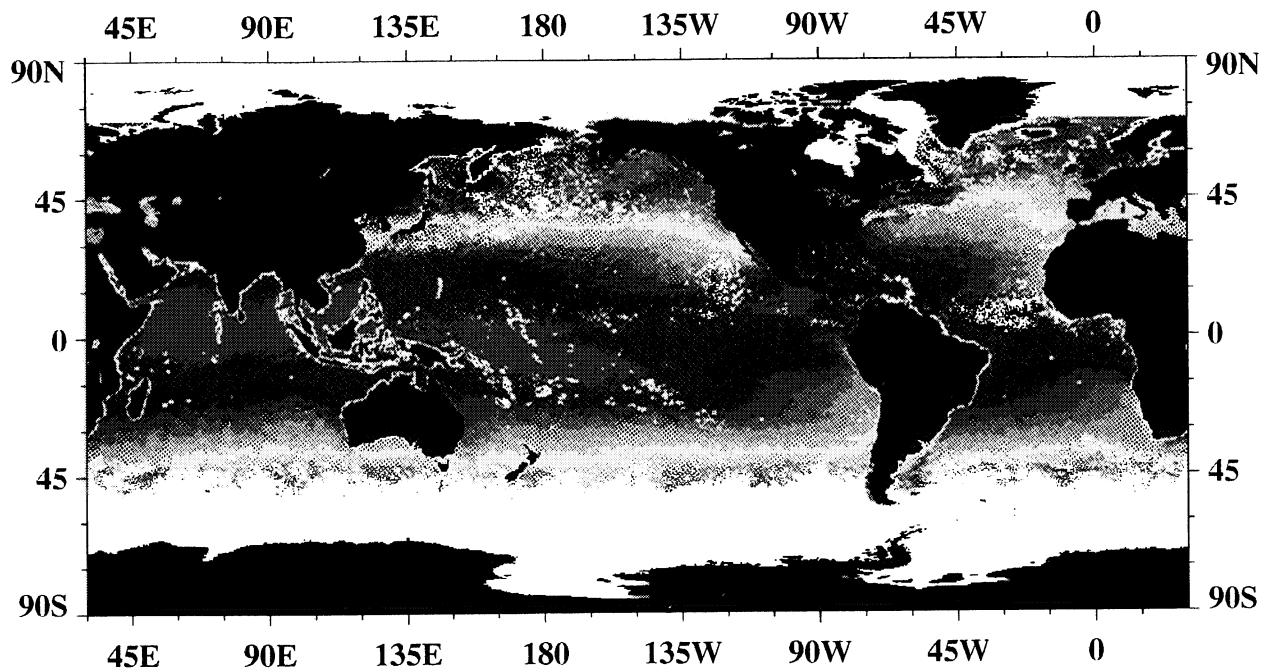
28 February to 27 March 1991



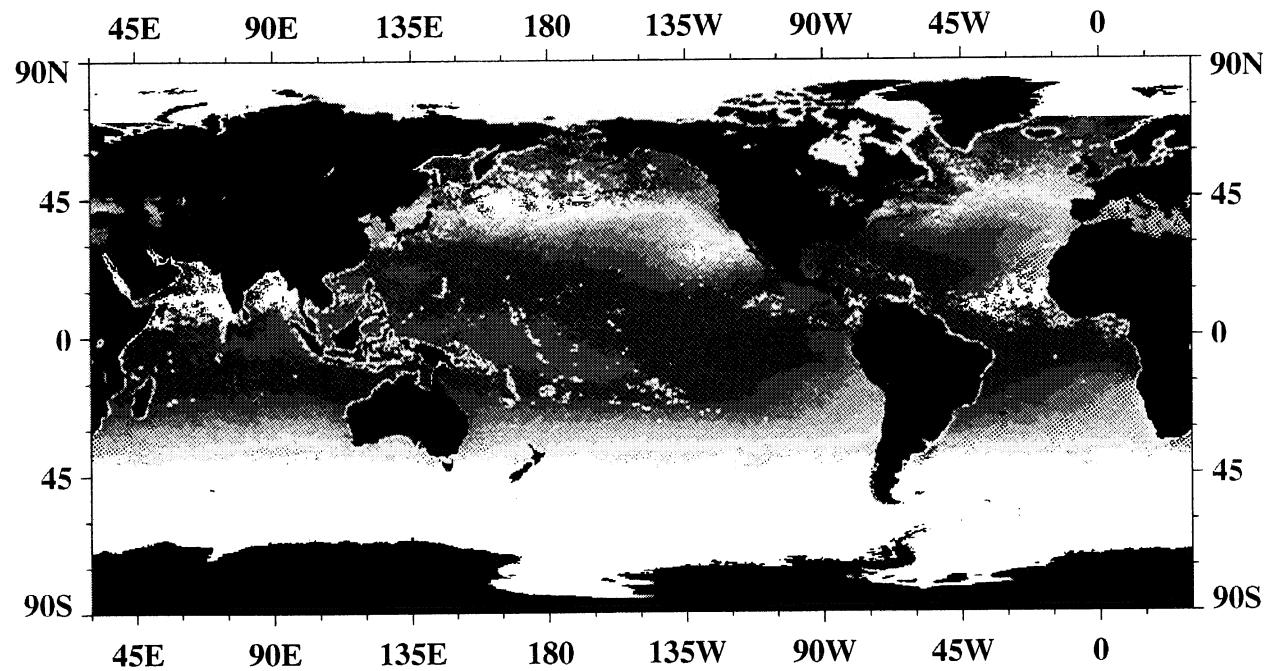
3 April to 1 May 1991



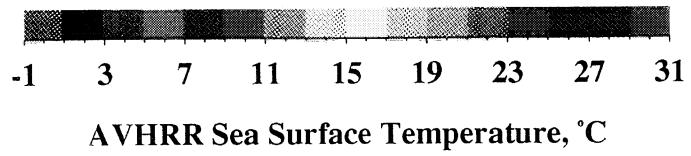
AVHRR Sea Surface Temperature, °C

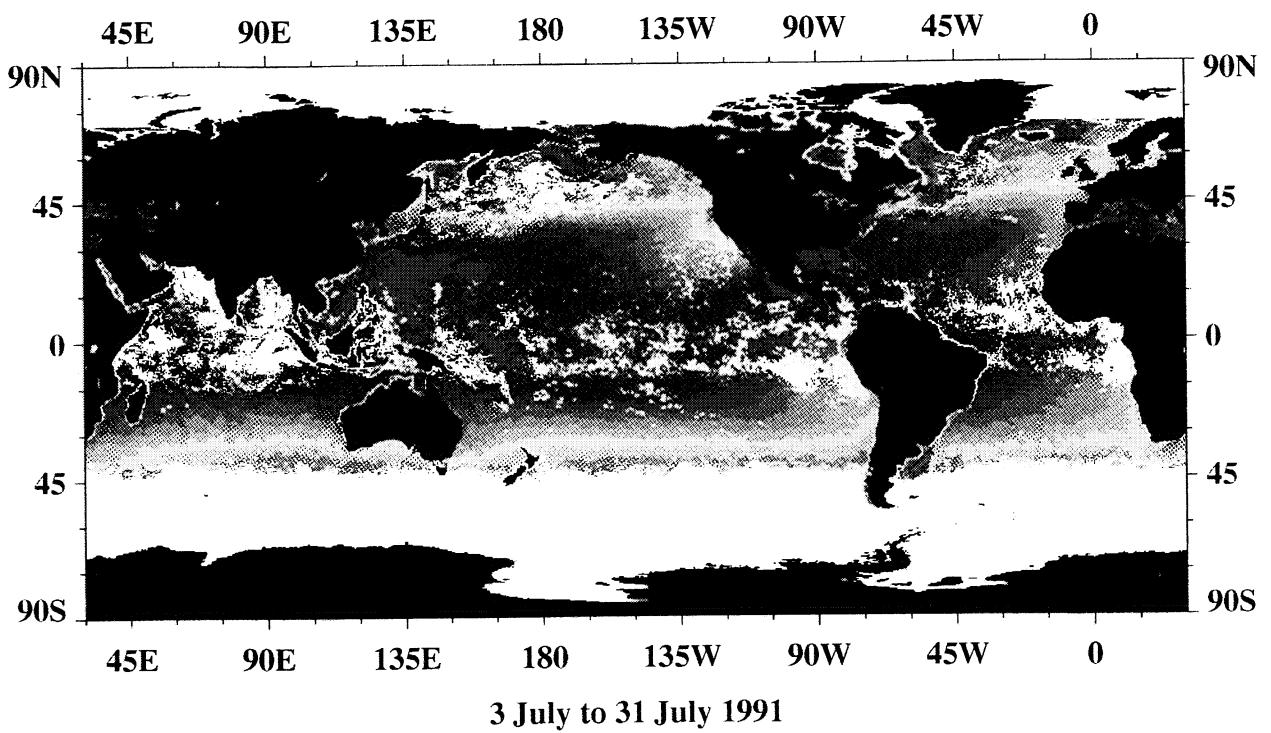


2 May to 28 May 1991

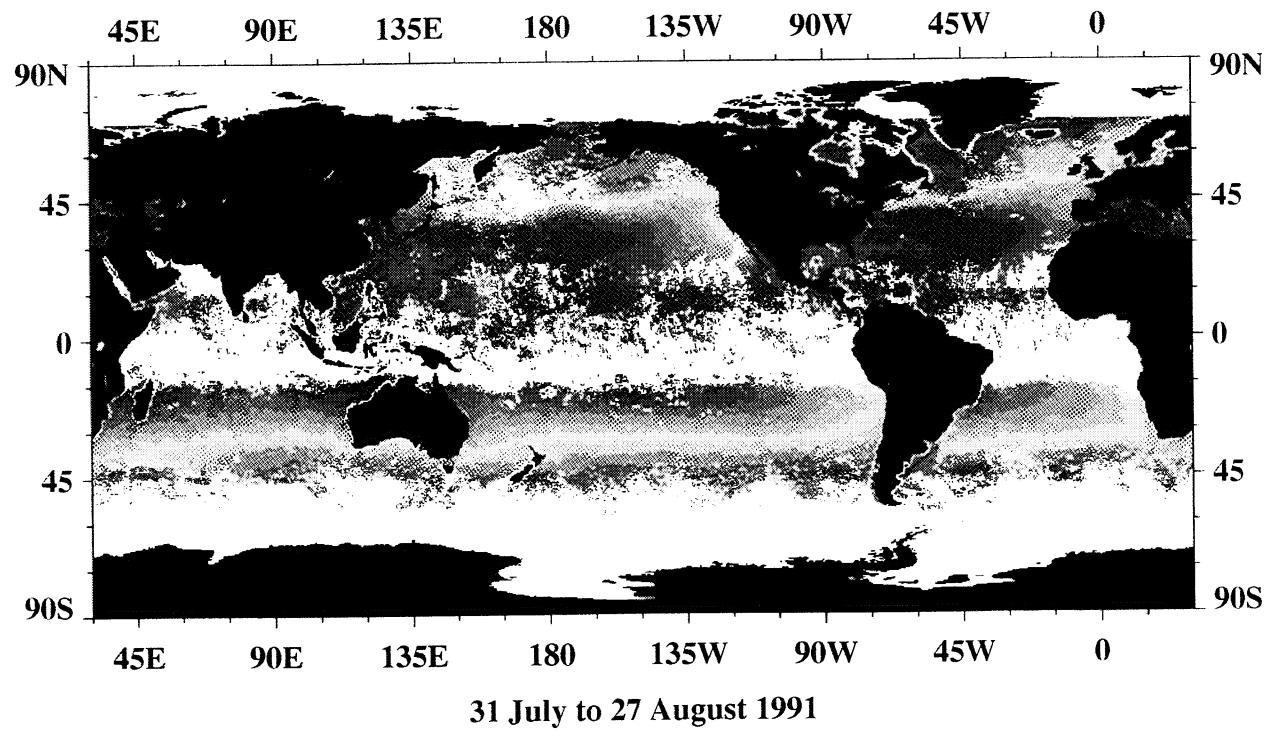


30 May to 26 June 1991

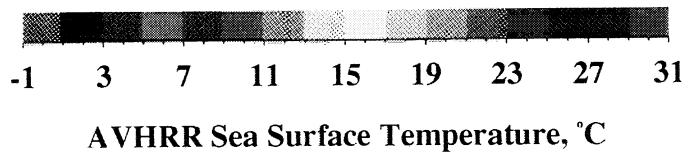




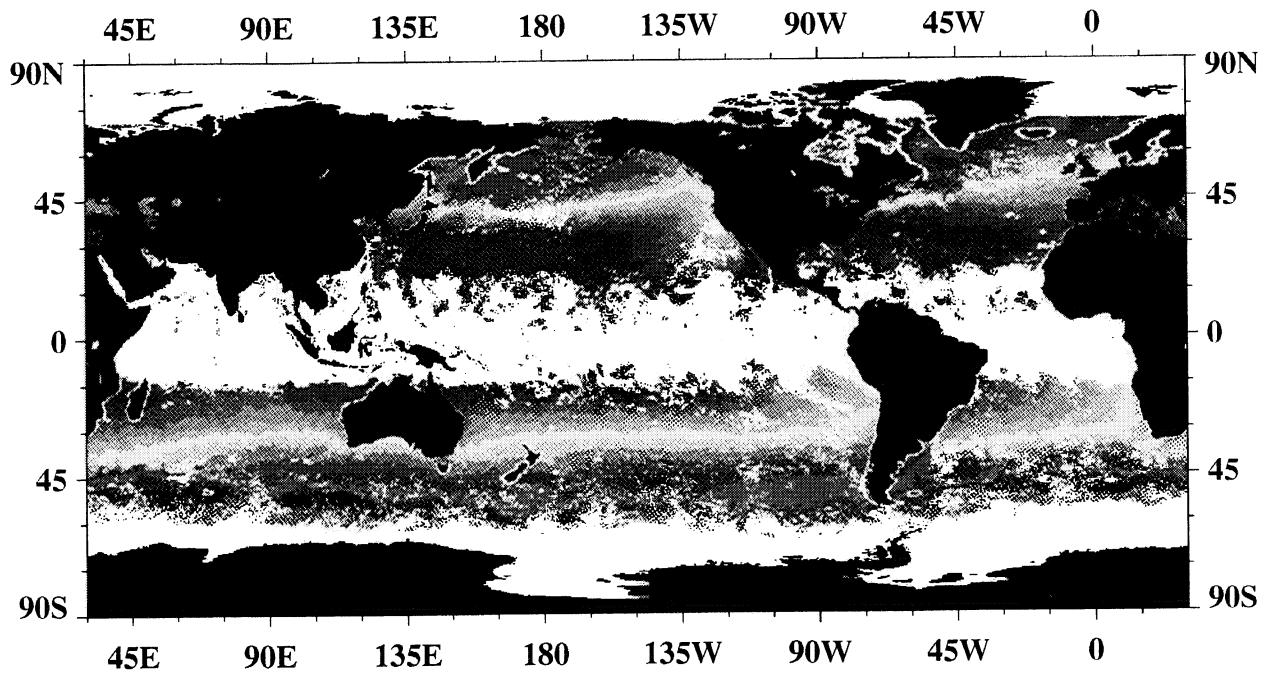
3 July to 31 July 1991



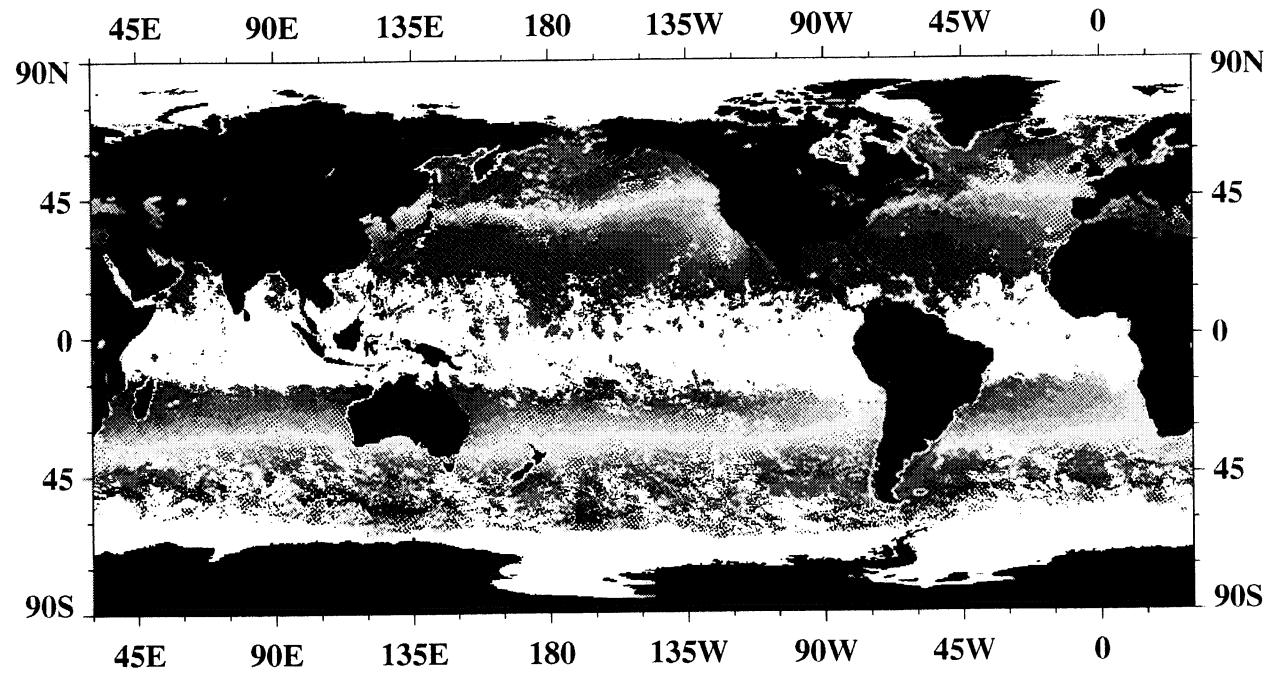
31 July to 27 August 1991



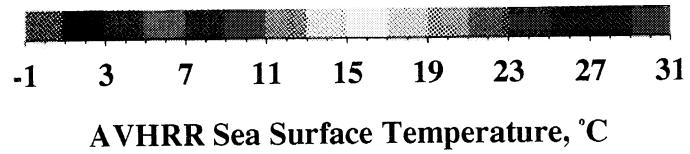
AVHRR Sea Surface Temperature, °C



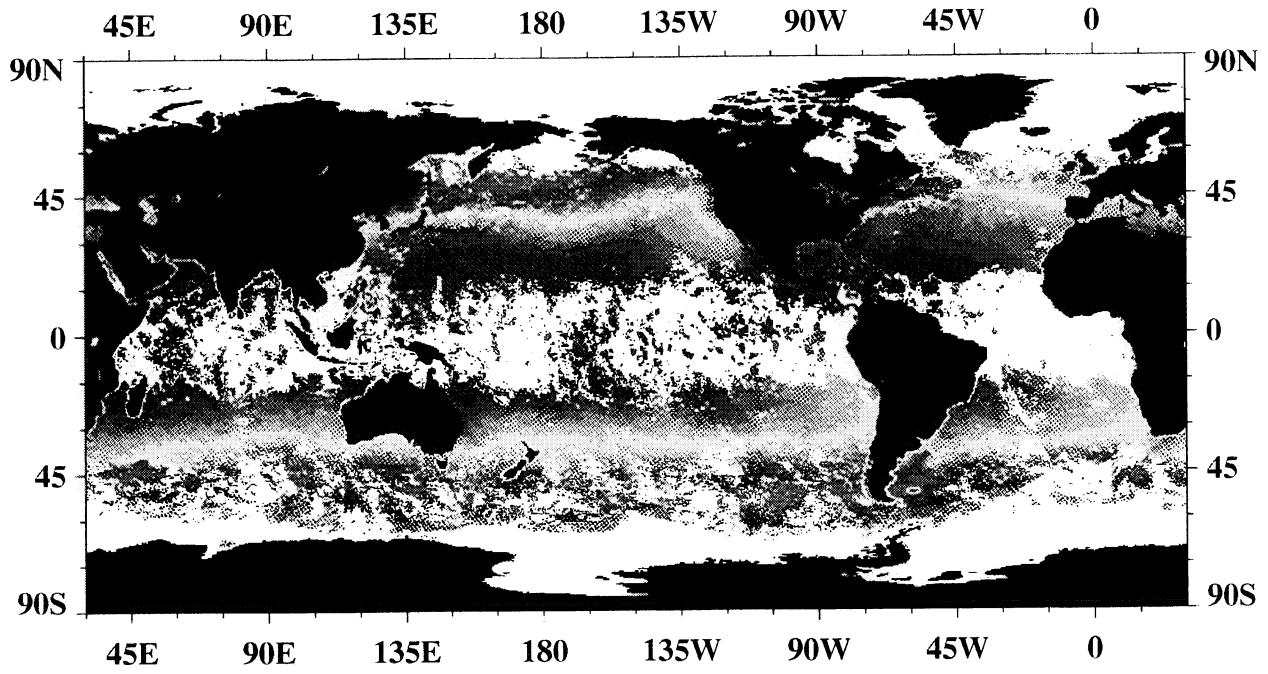
5 September to 2 October 1991



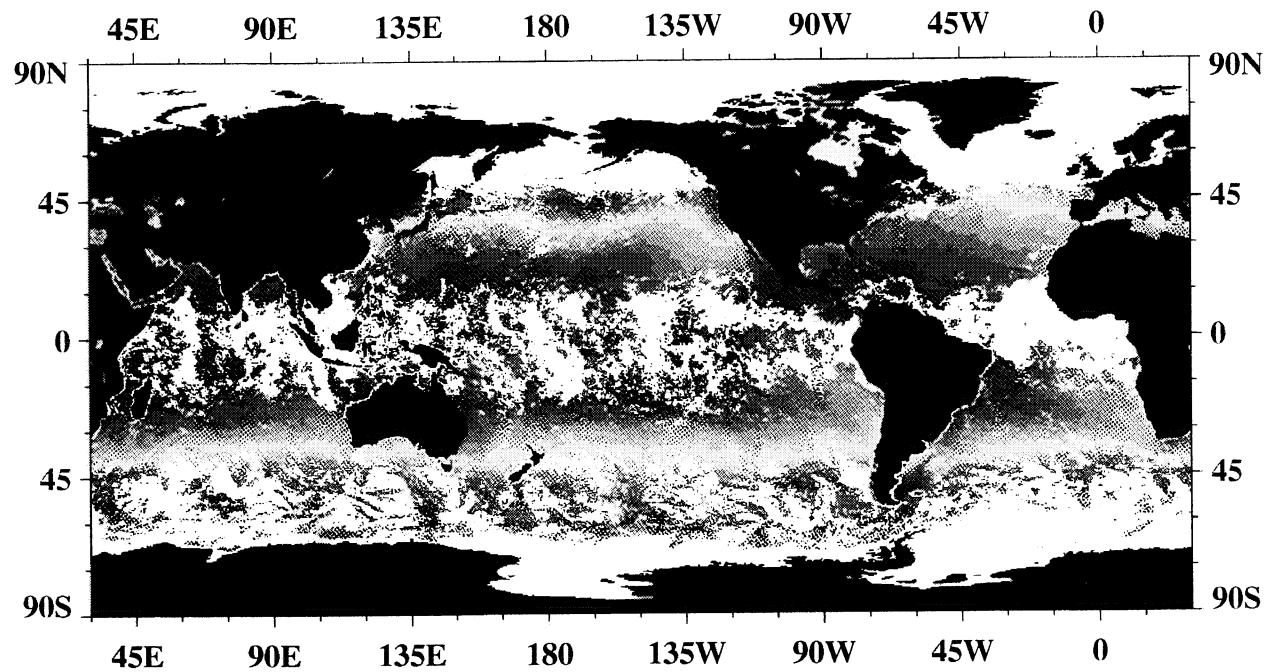
3 October to 30 October 1991



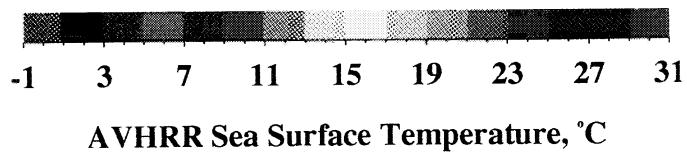
AVHRR Sea Surface Temperature, °C



30 October to 27 November 1991



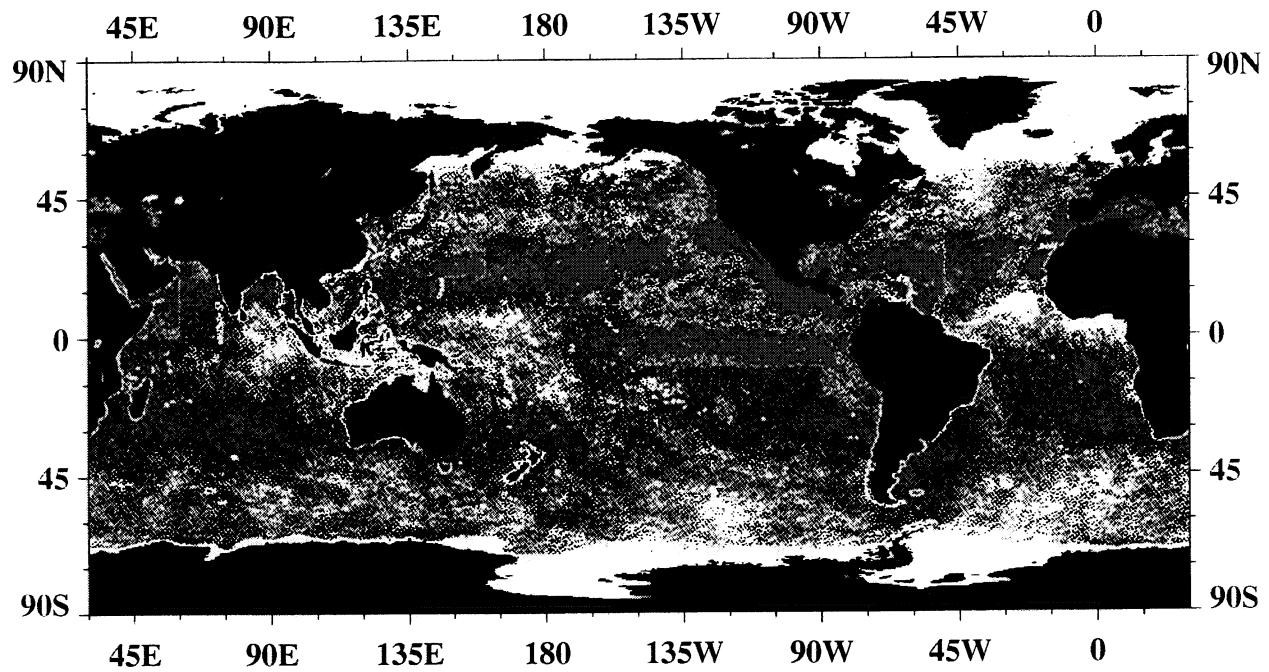
28 November to 25 December 1991



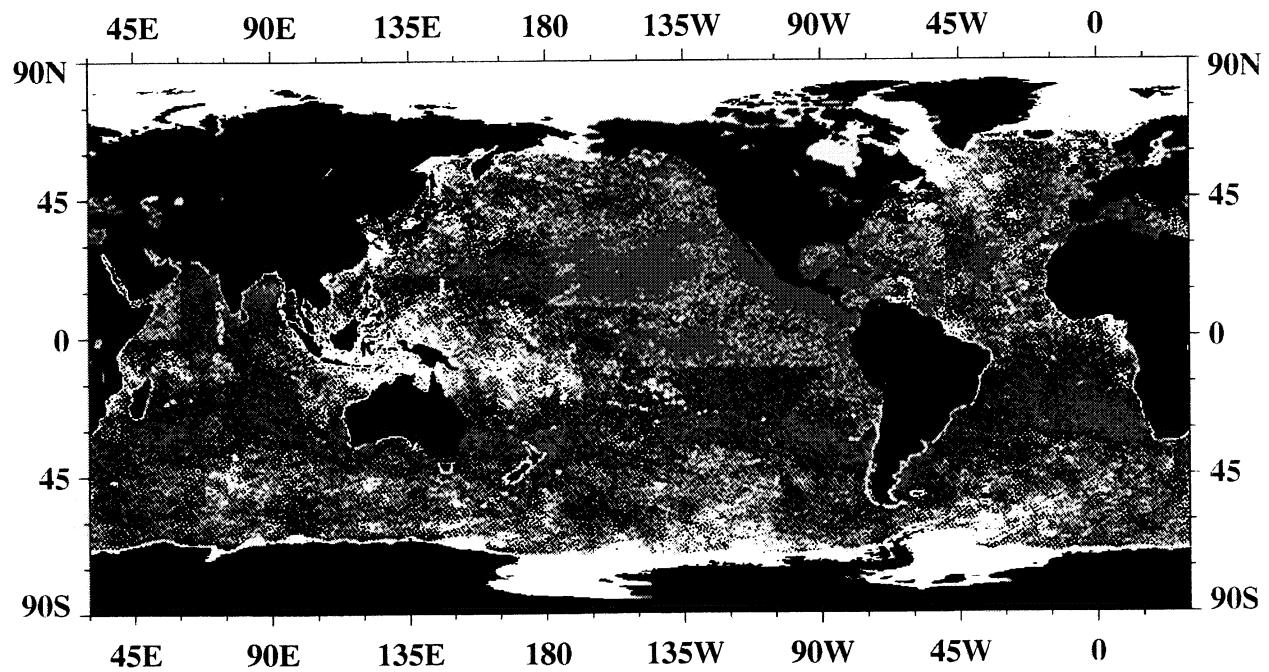
AVHRR Sea Surface Temperature, °C

A8

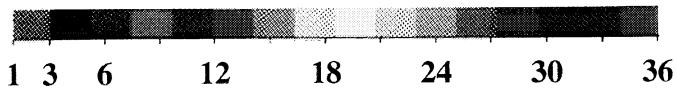
28-Day AVHRR/2 Sampling Distribution



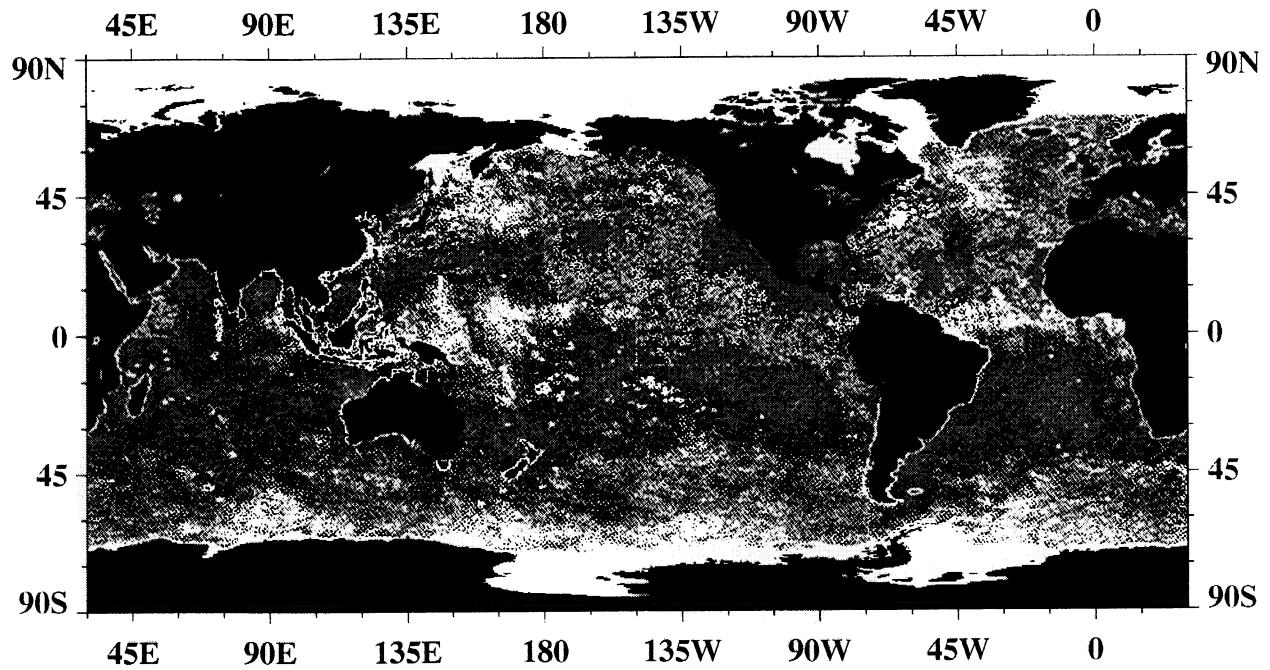
3 January to 30 January 1991, max = 192



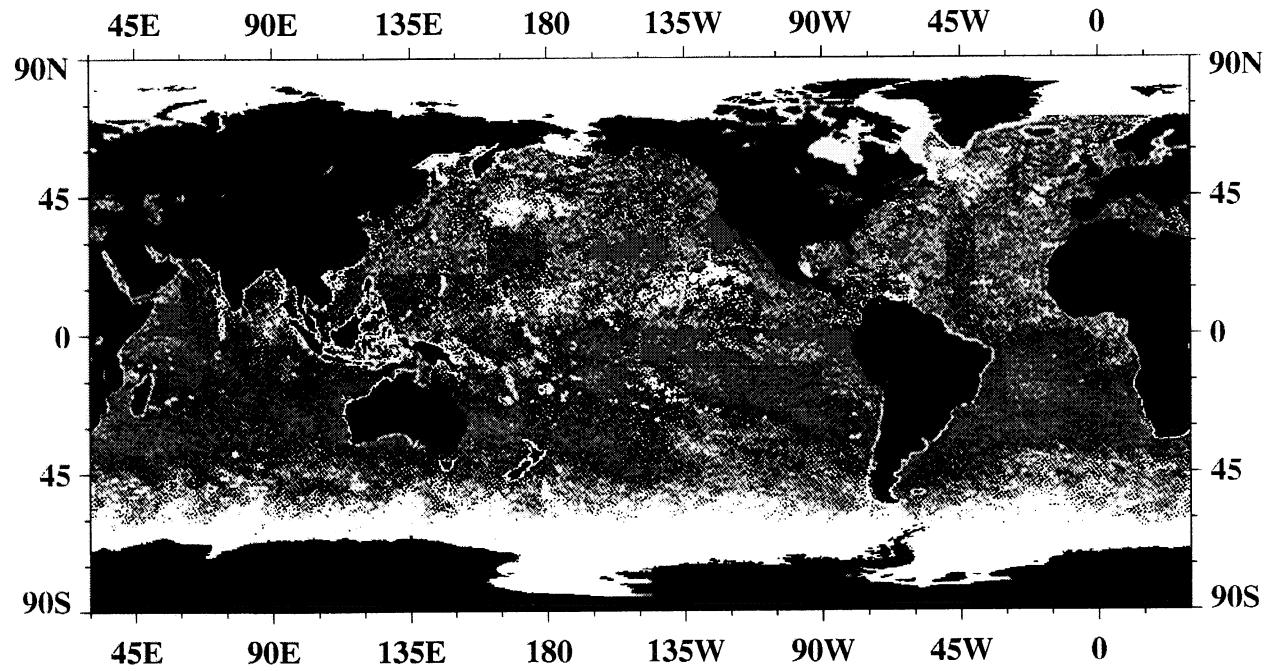
30 January to 27 February 1991, max = 191



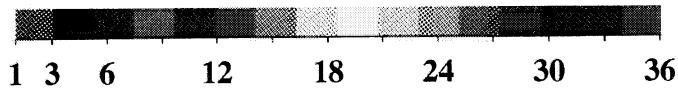
Number of AVHRR Sea Surface Temperature Values per Pixel



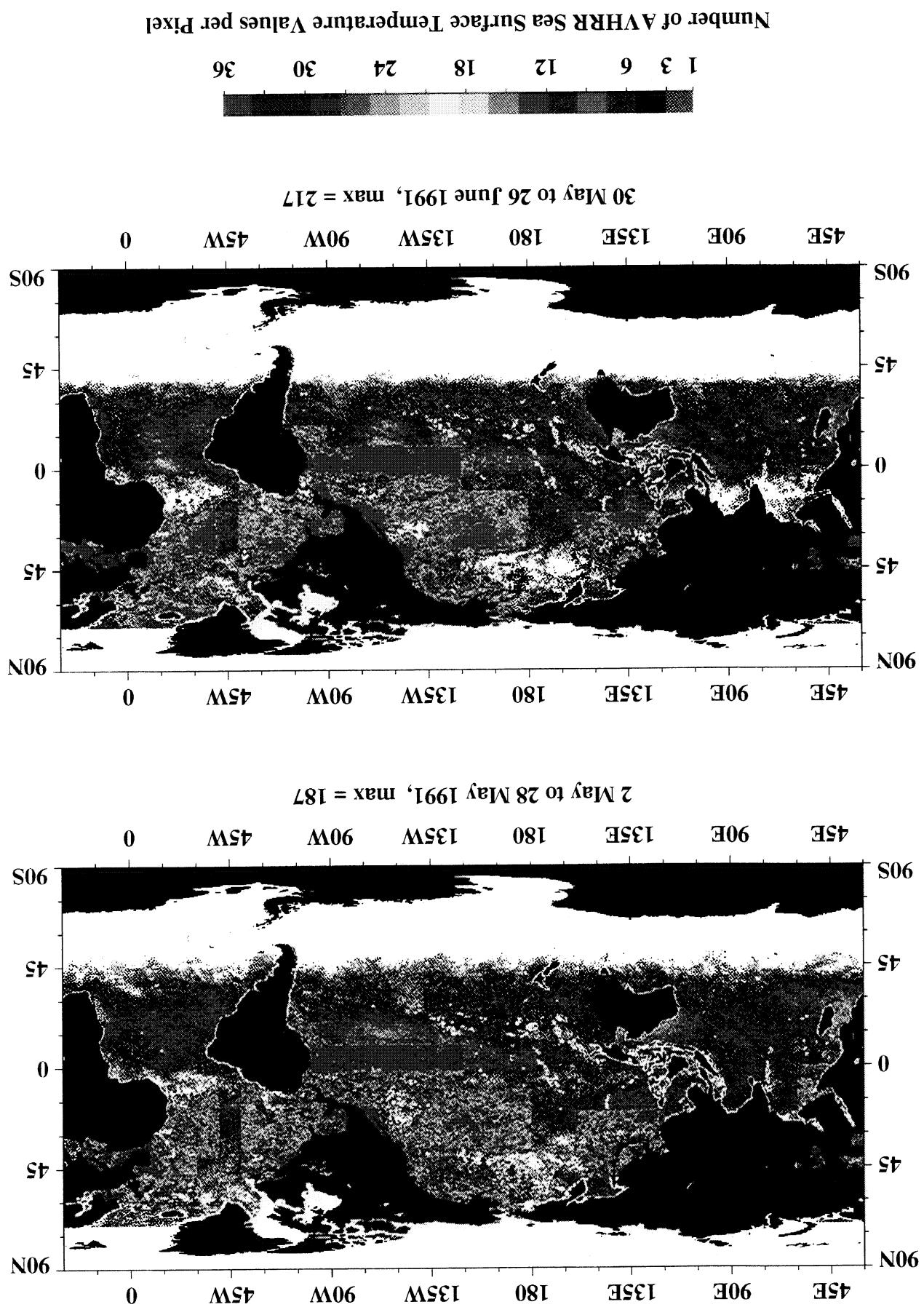
28 February to 27 March 1991, max = 187

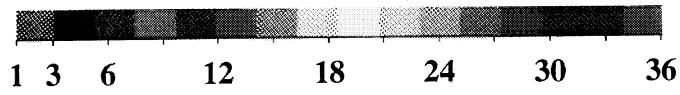
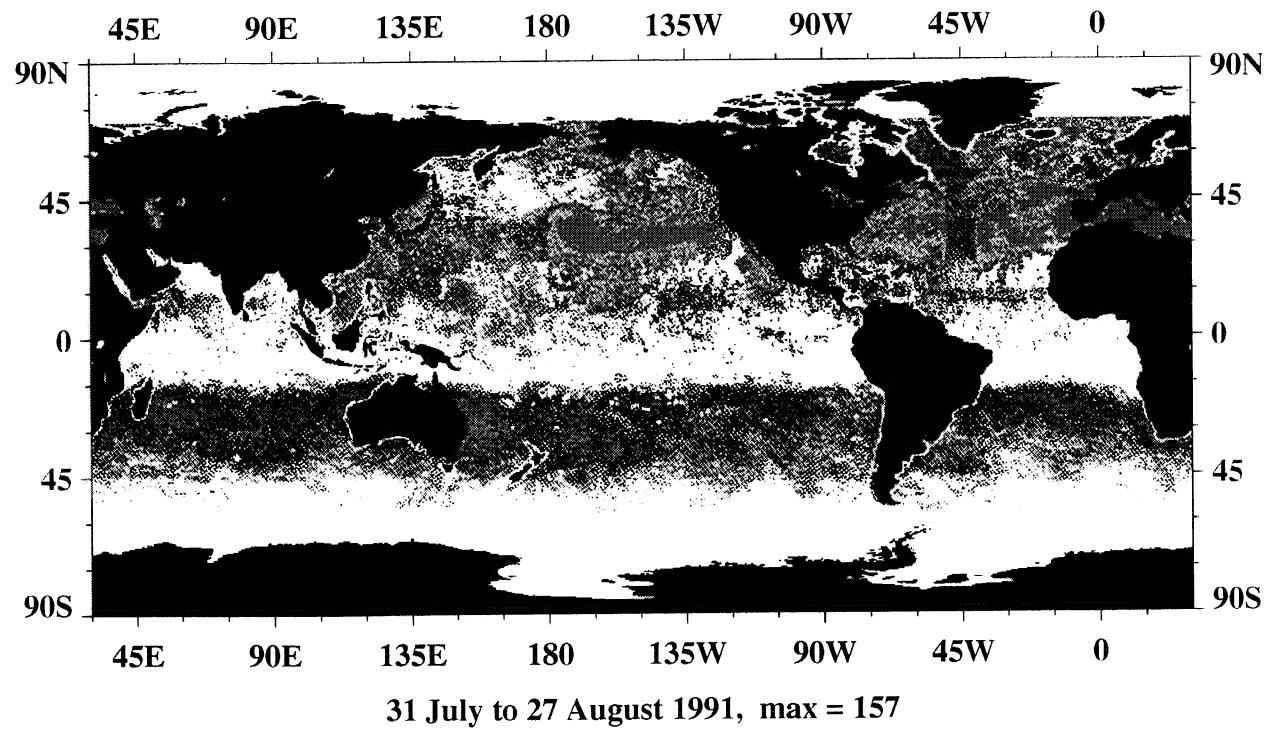
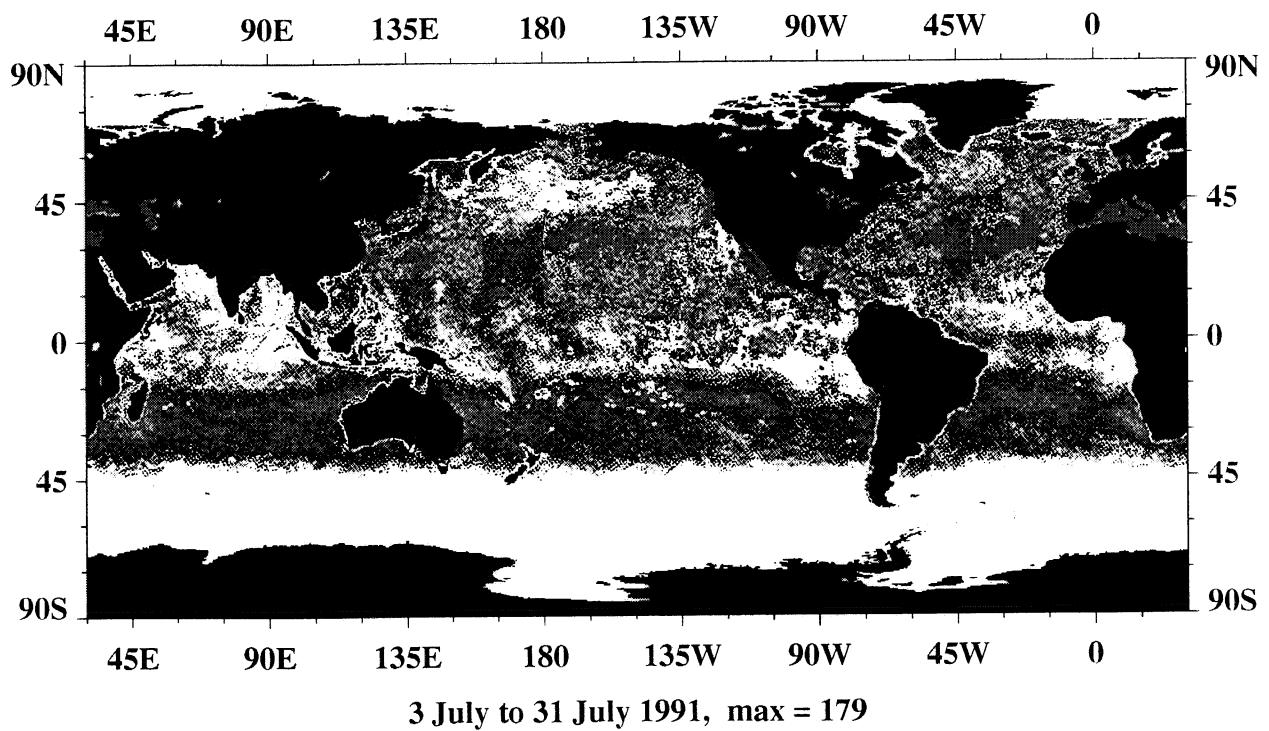


3 April to 1 May 1991, max = 248

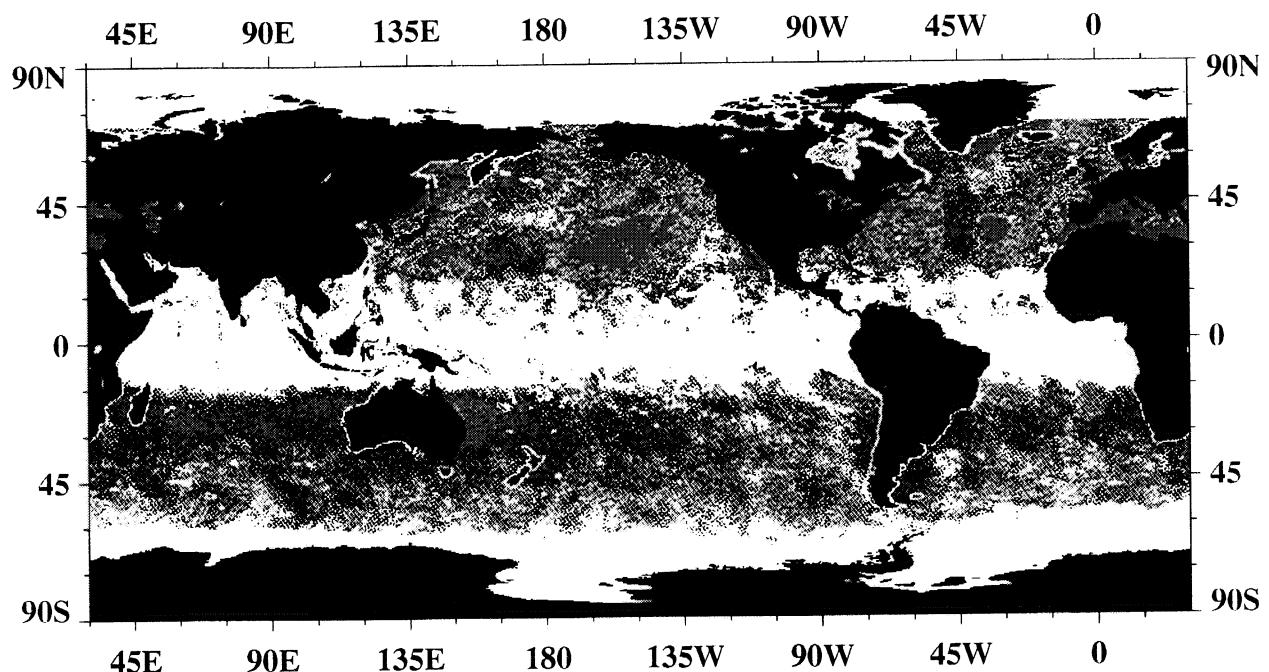


Number of AVHRR Sea Surface Temperature Values per Pixel

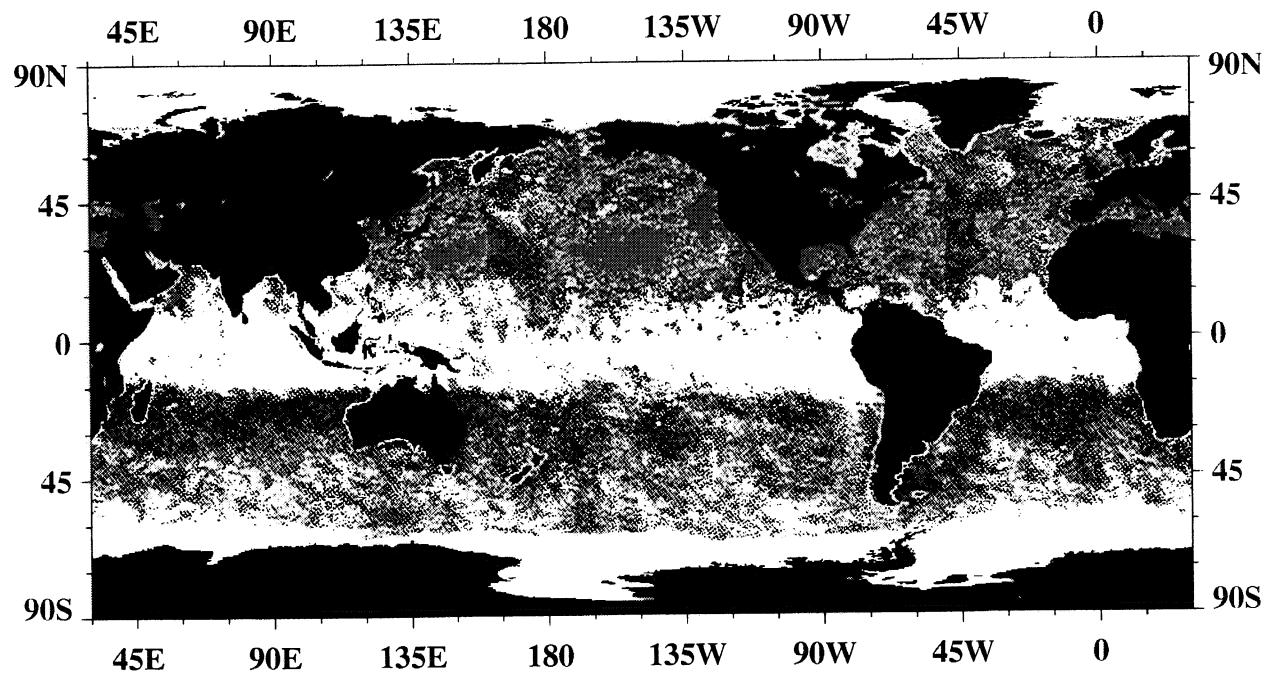




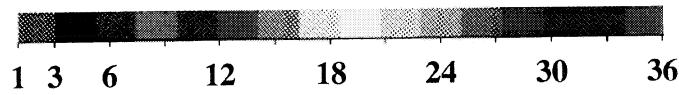
Number of AVHRR Sea Surface Temperature Values per Pixel



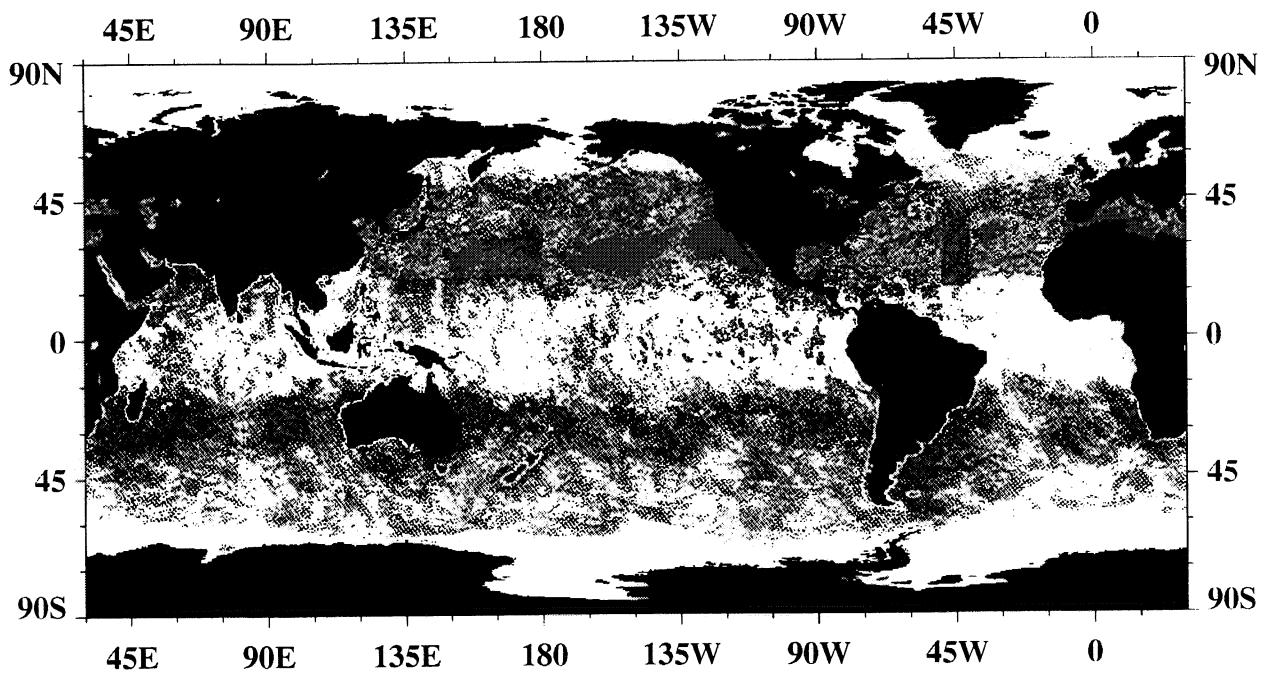
5 September to 2 October 1991, max = 204



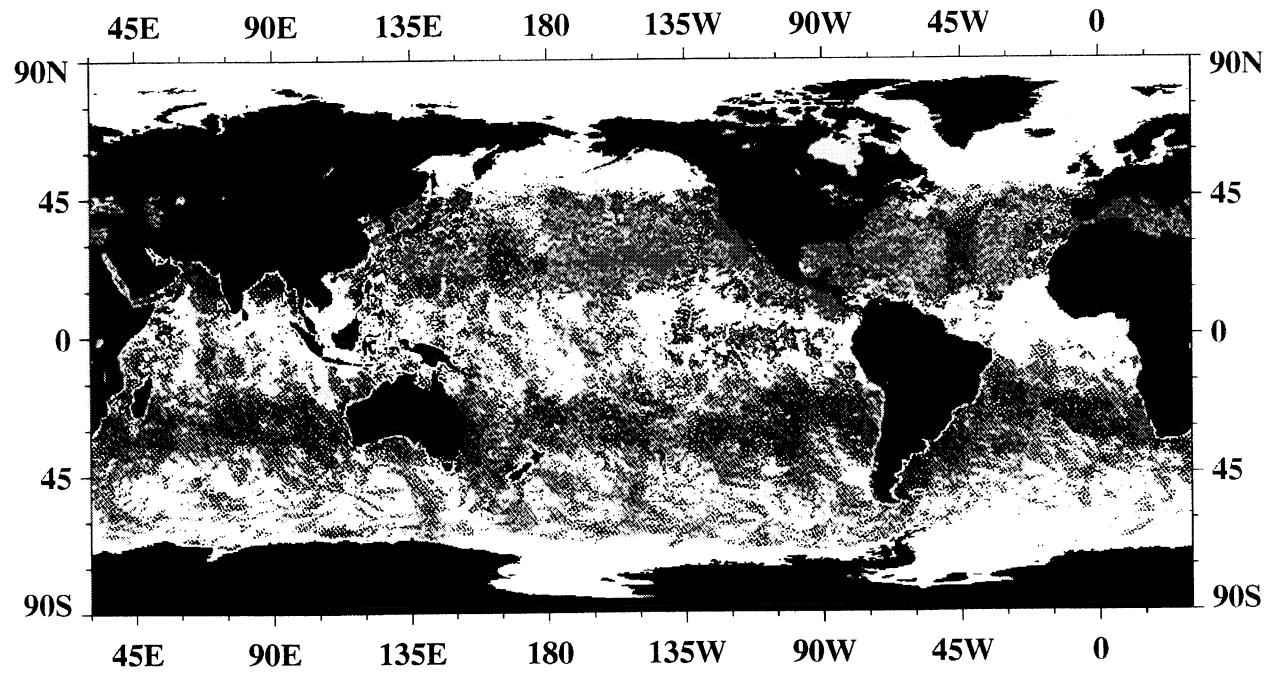
3 October to 30 October 1991, max = 209



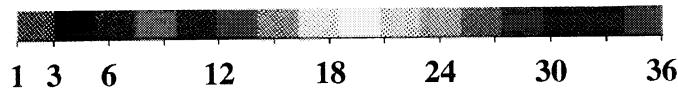
Number of AVHRR Sea Surface Temperature Values per Pixel



30 October to 27 November 1991, max = 184



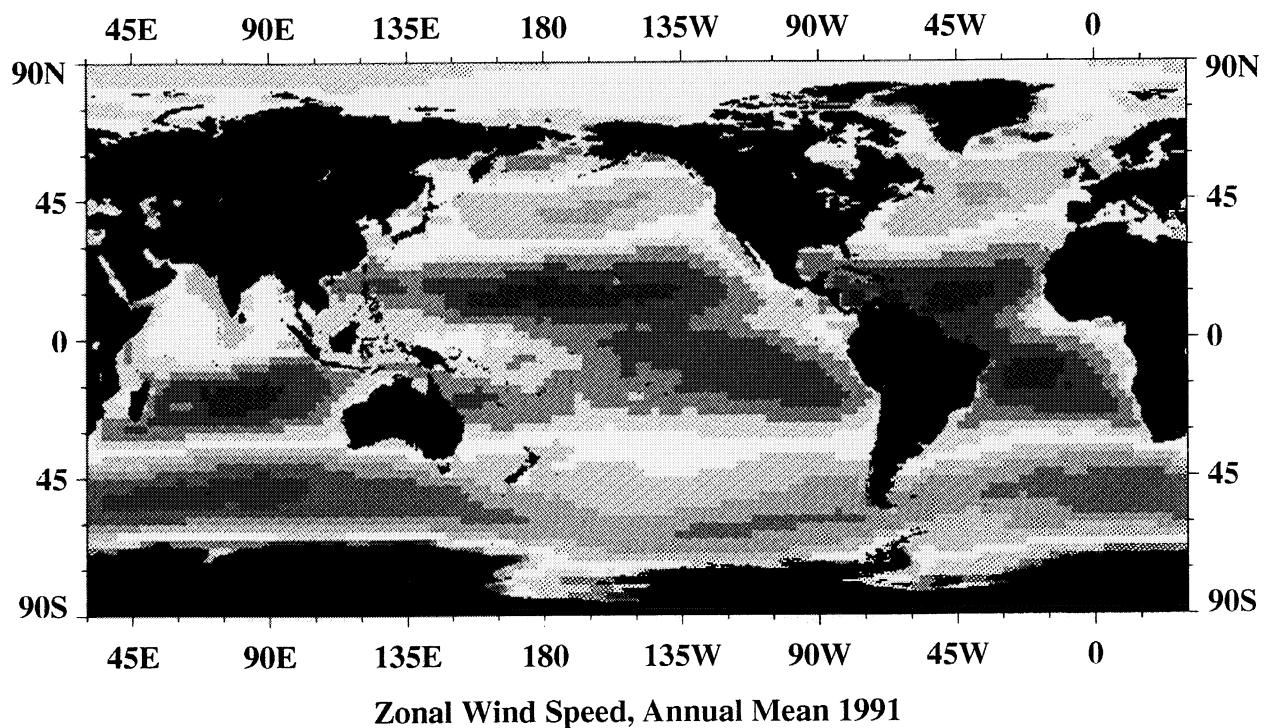
28 November to 25 December 1991, max = 155



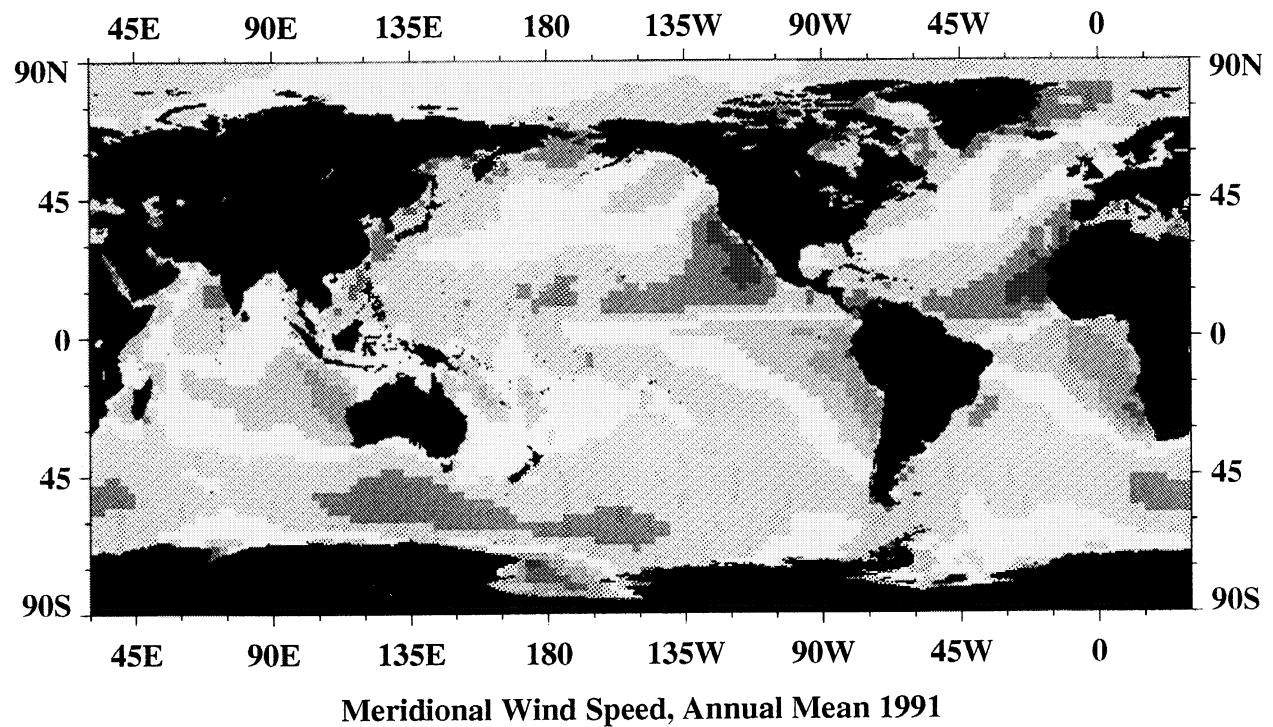
Number of AVHRR Sea Surface Temperature Values per Pixel

A9

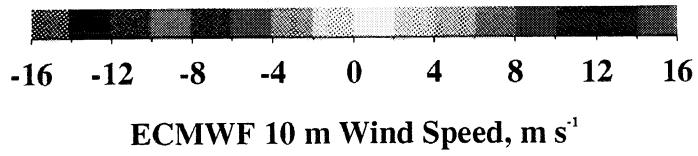
Annual Mean ECMWF Surface Wind Components



Zonal Wind Speed, Annual Mean 1991

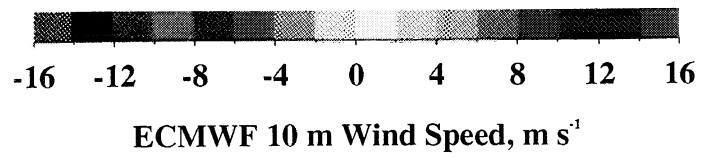
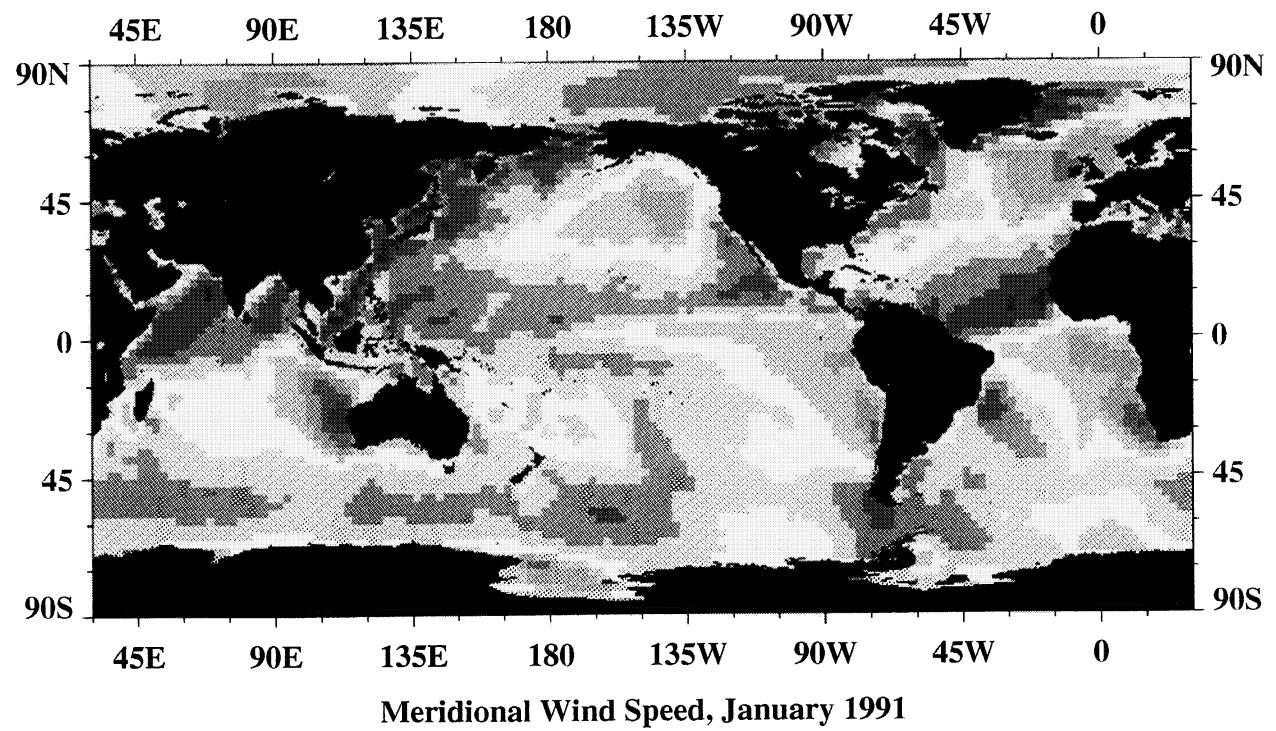
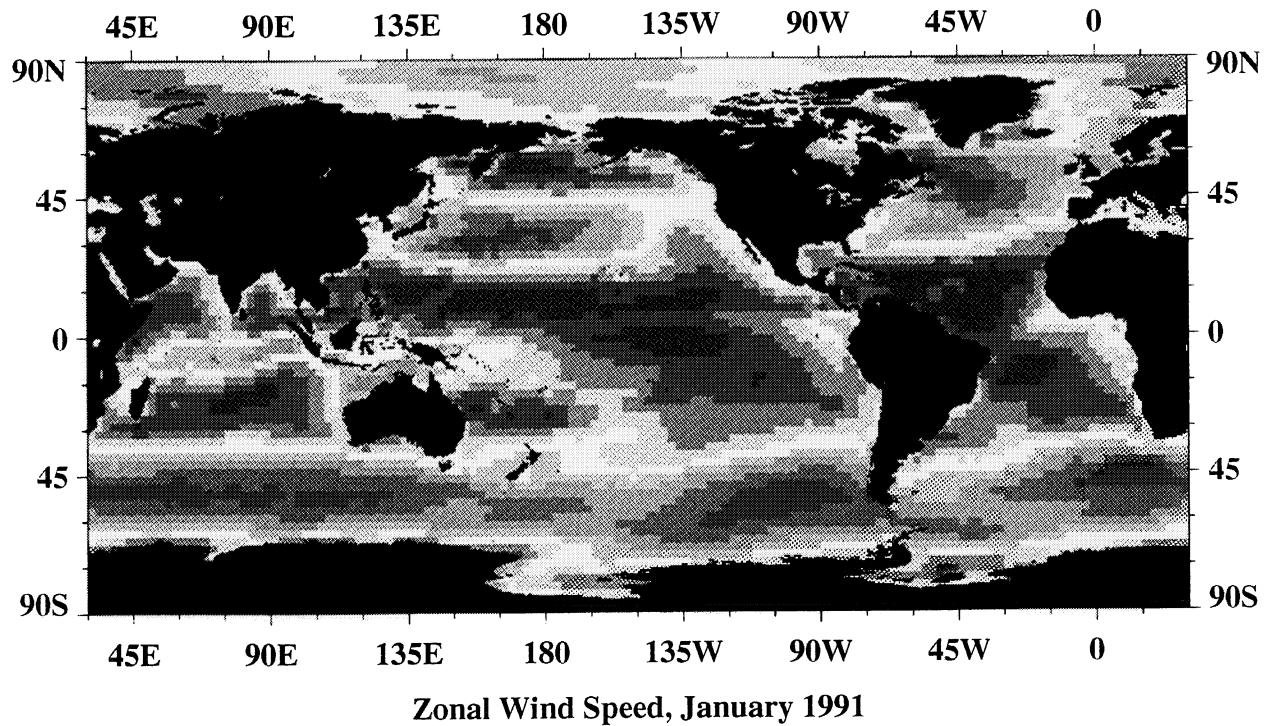


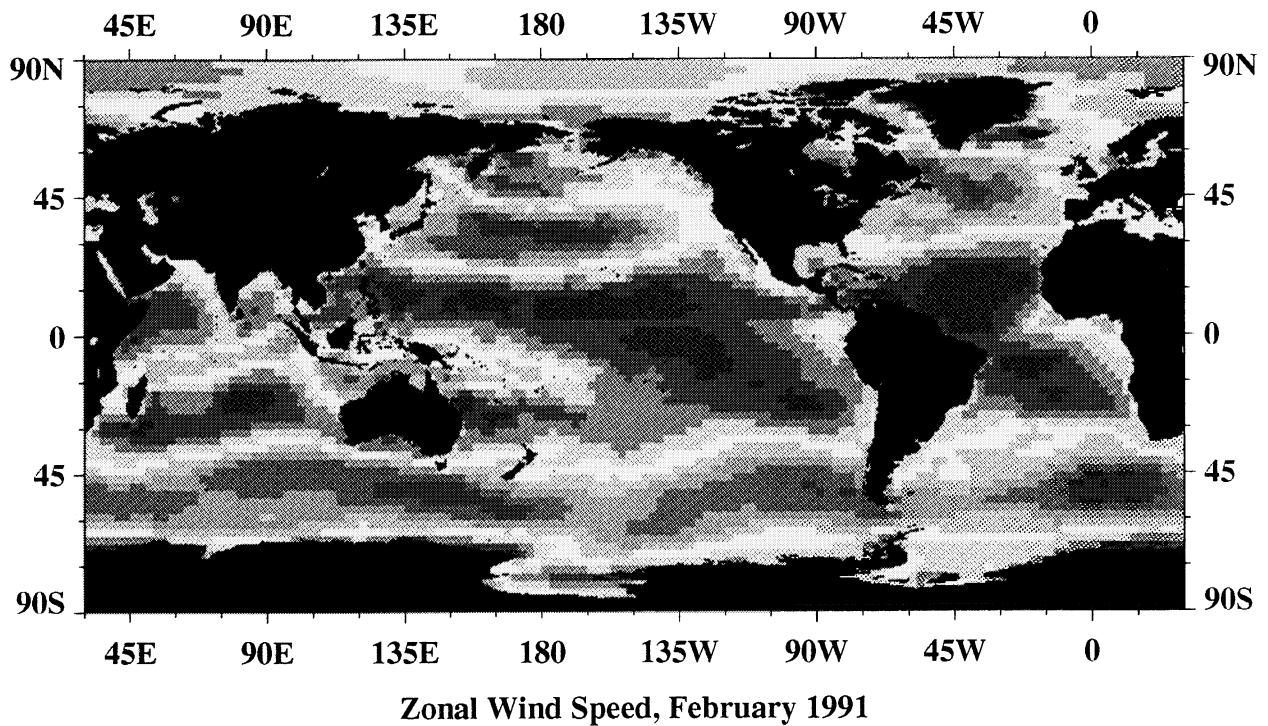
Meridional Wind Speed, Annual Mean 1991



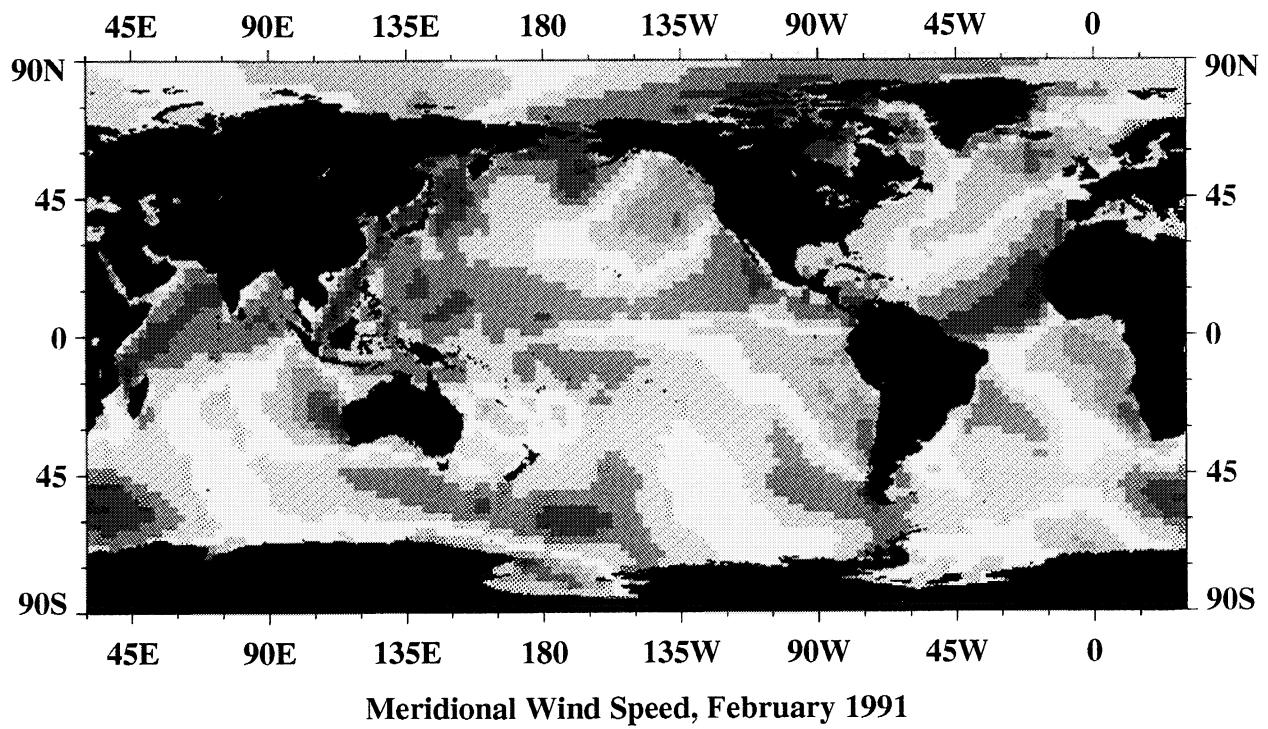
A10

Monthly Mean ECMWF Surface Wind Components

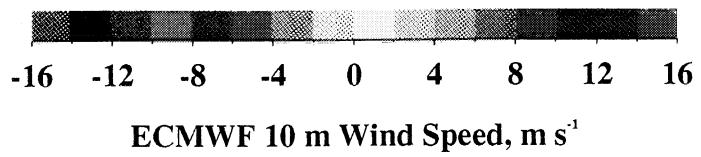


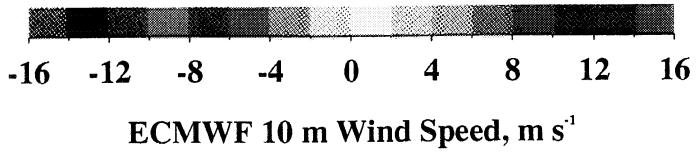
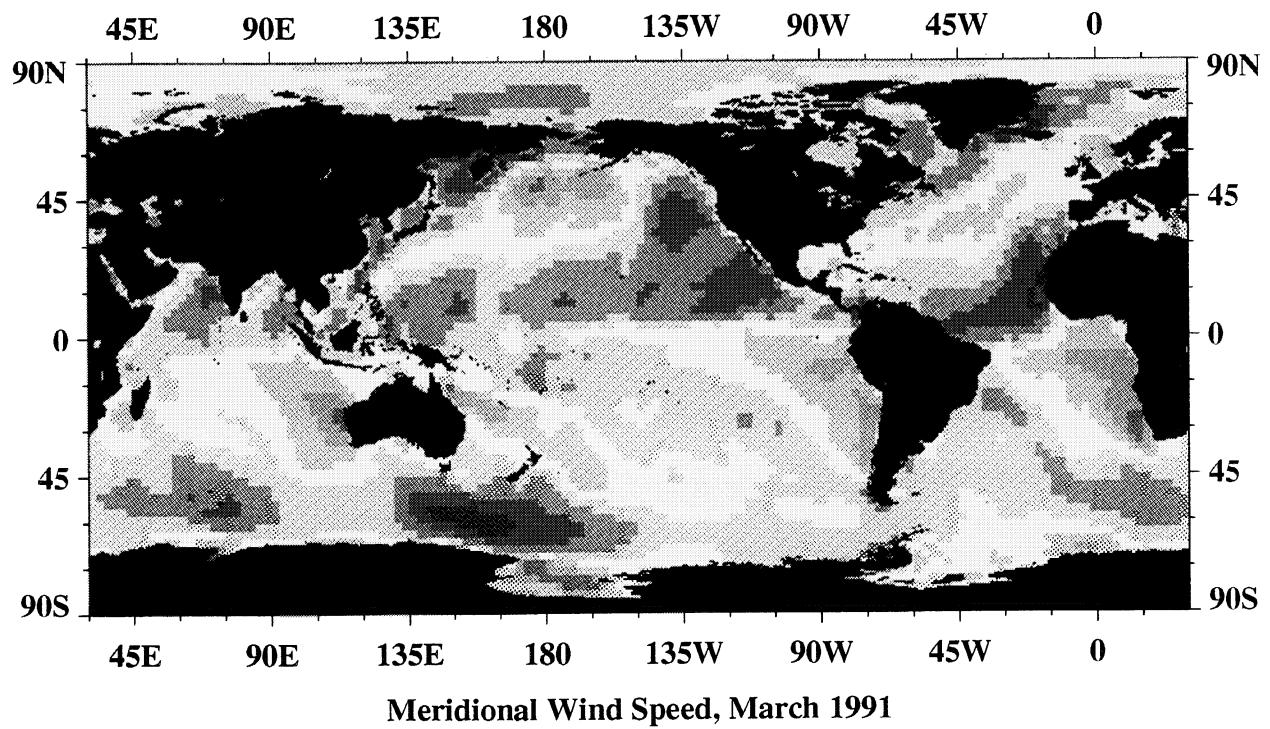
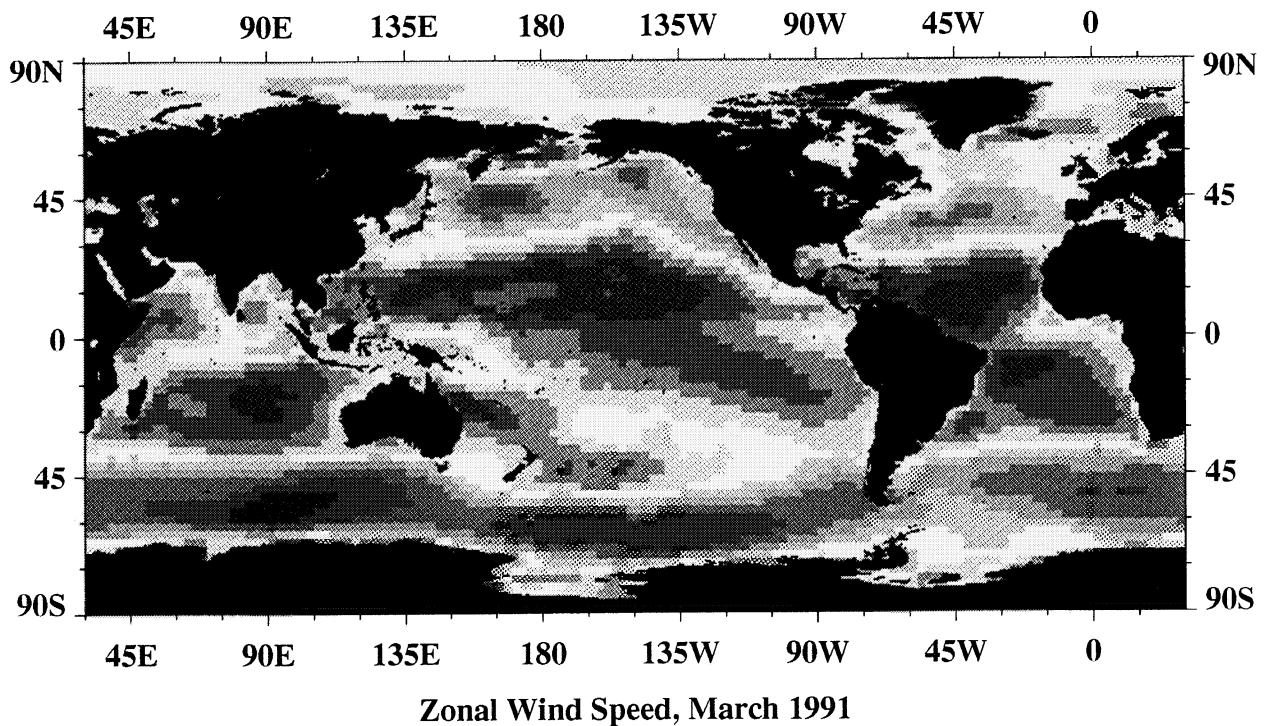


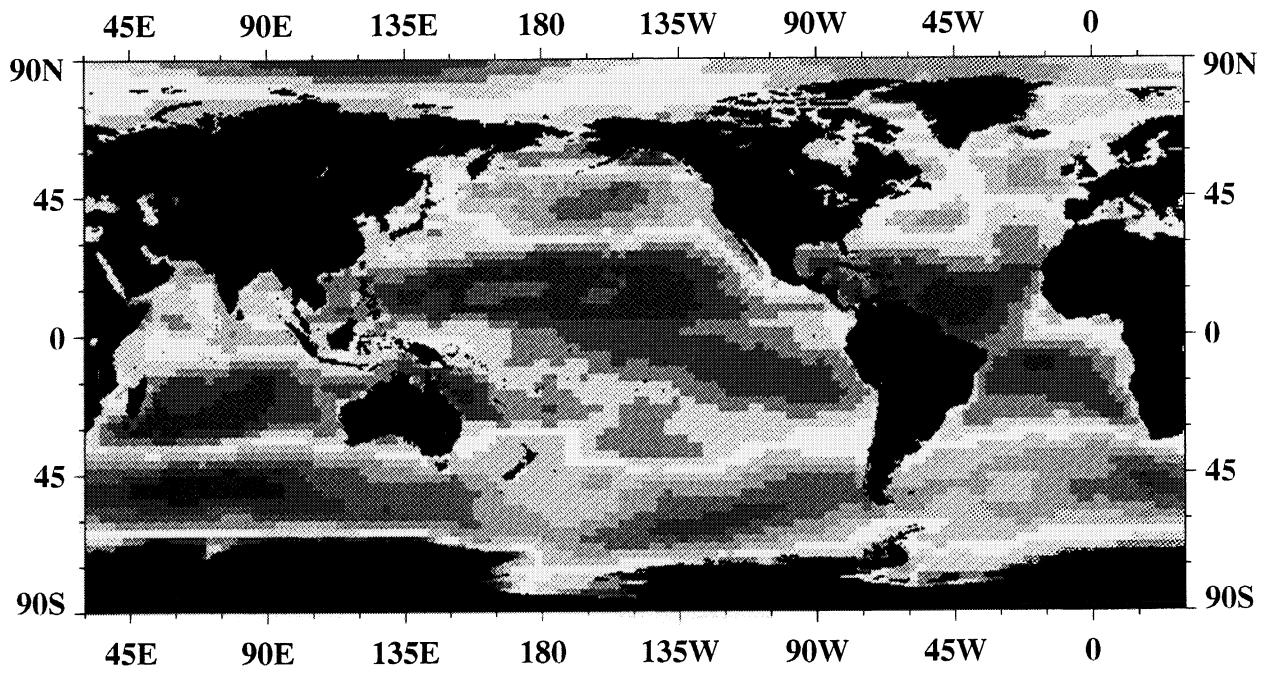
Zonal Wind Speed, February 1991



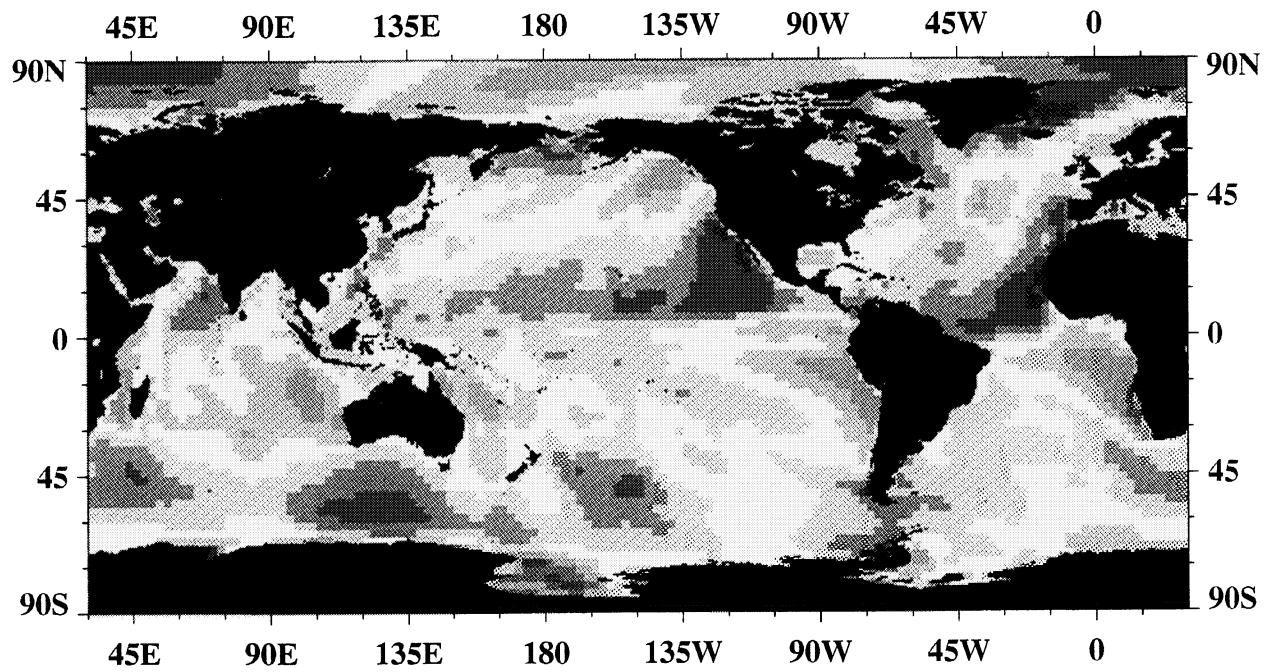
Meridional Wind Speed, February 1991



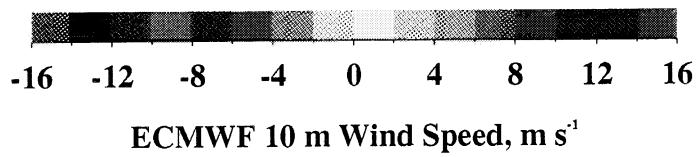


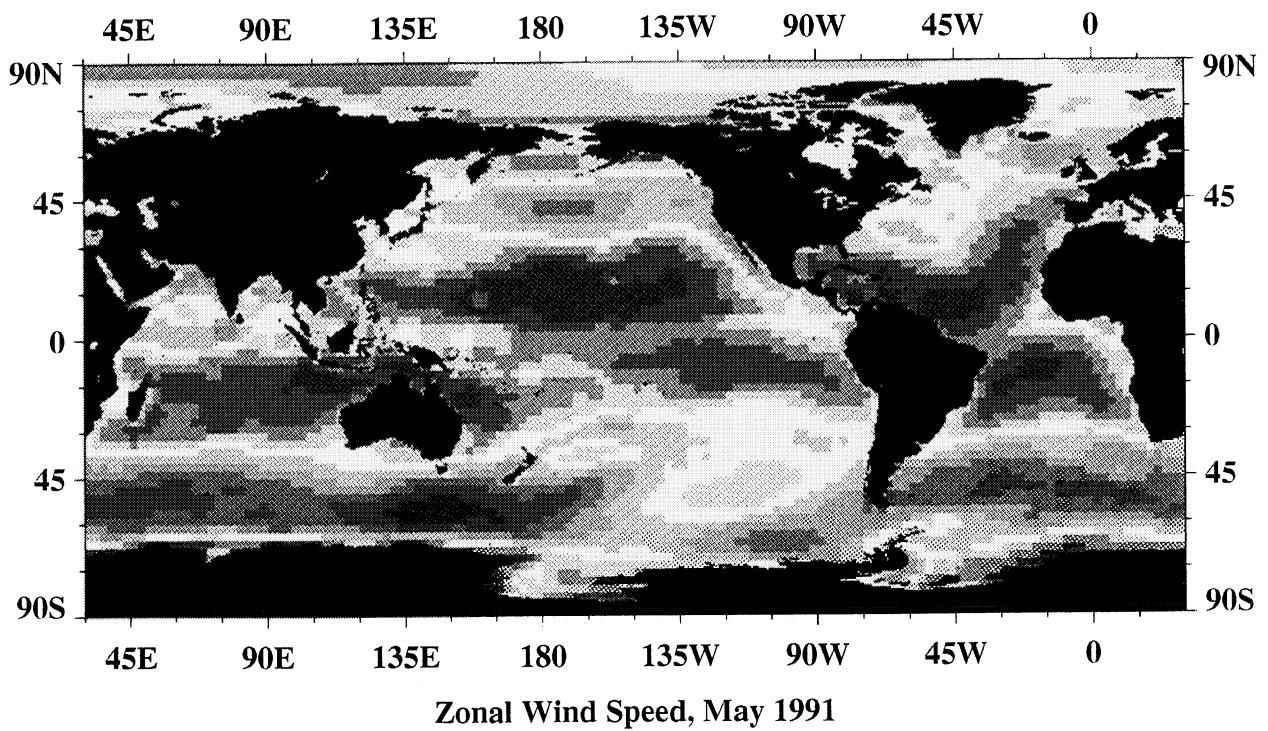


Zonal Wind Speed, April 1991

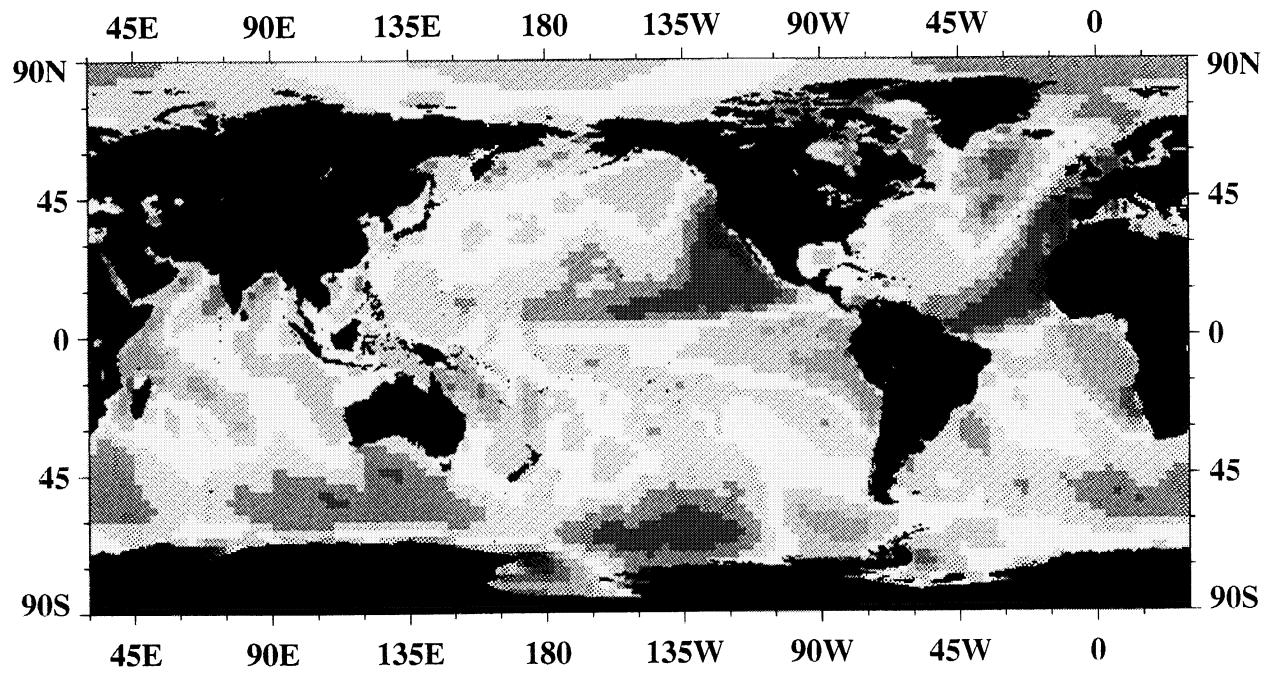


Meridional Wind Speed, April 1991

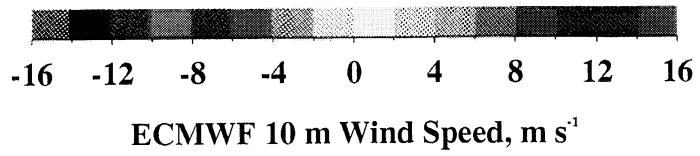


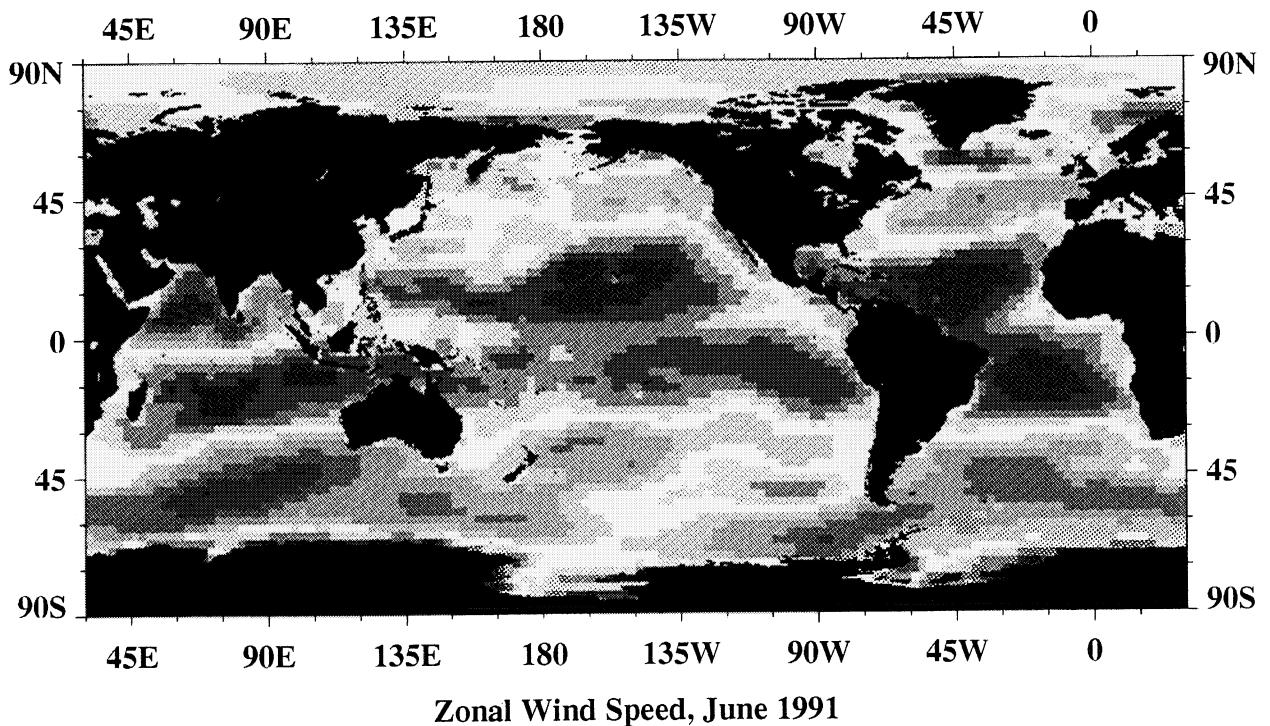


Zonal Wind Speed, May 1991

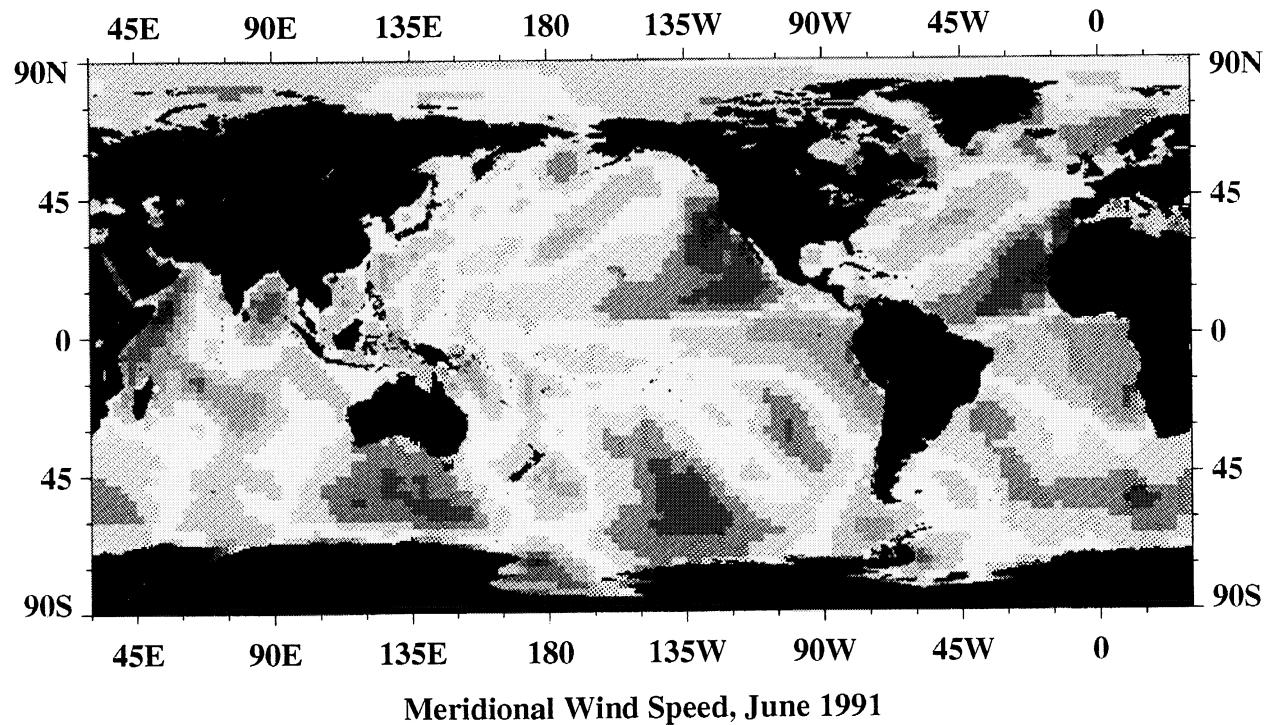


Meridional Wind Speed, May 1991

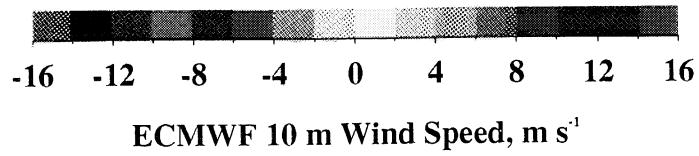


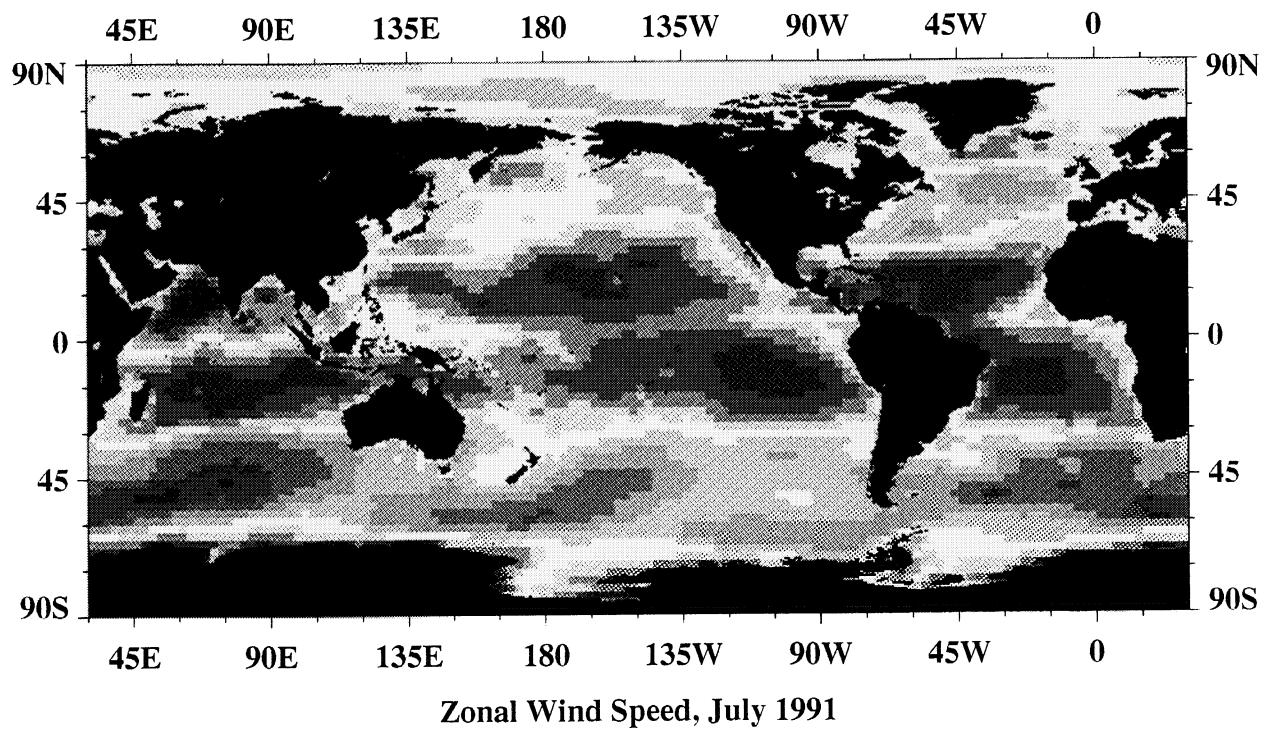


Zonal Wind Speed, June 1991

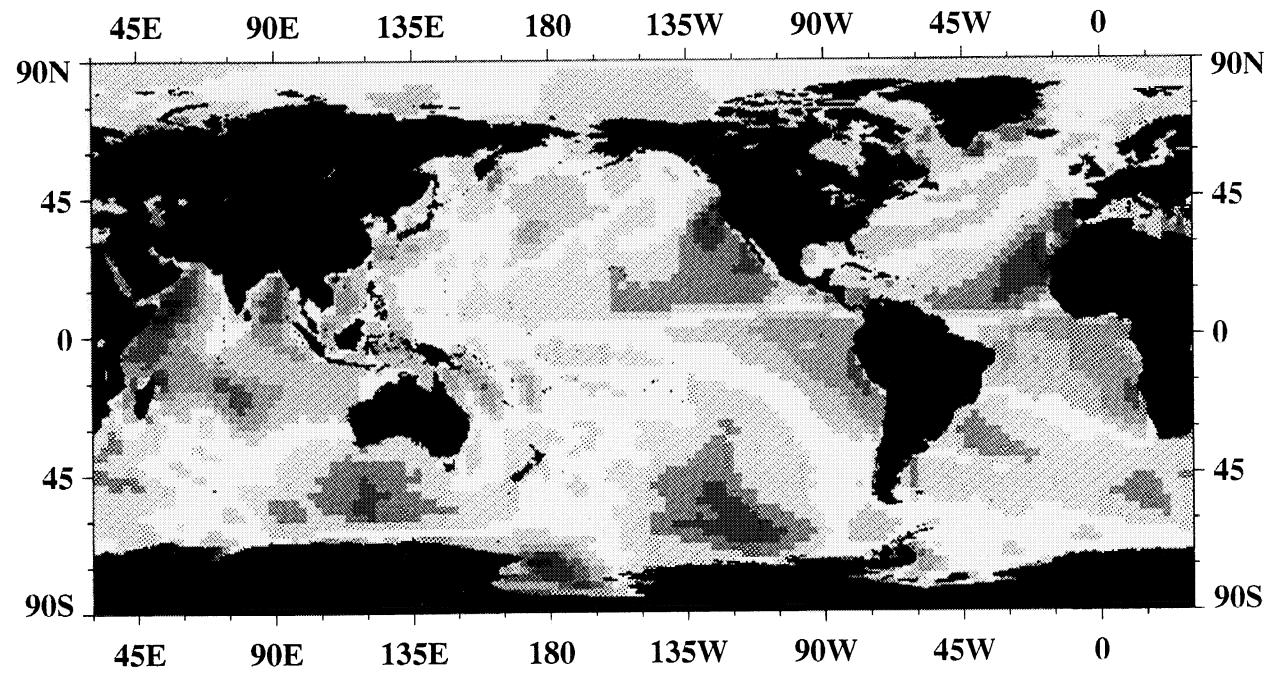


Meridional Wind Speed, June 1991

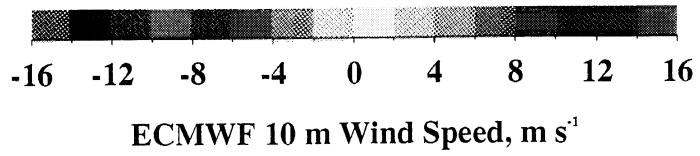


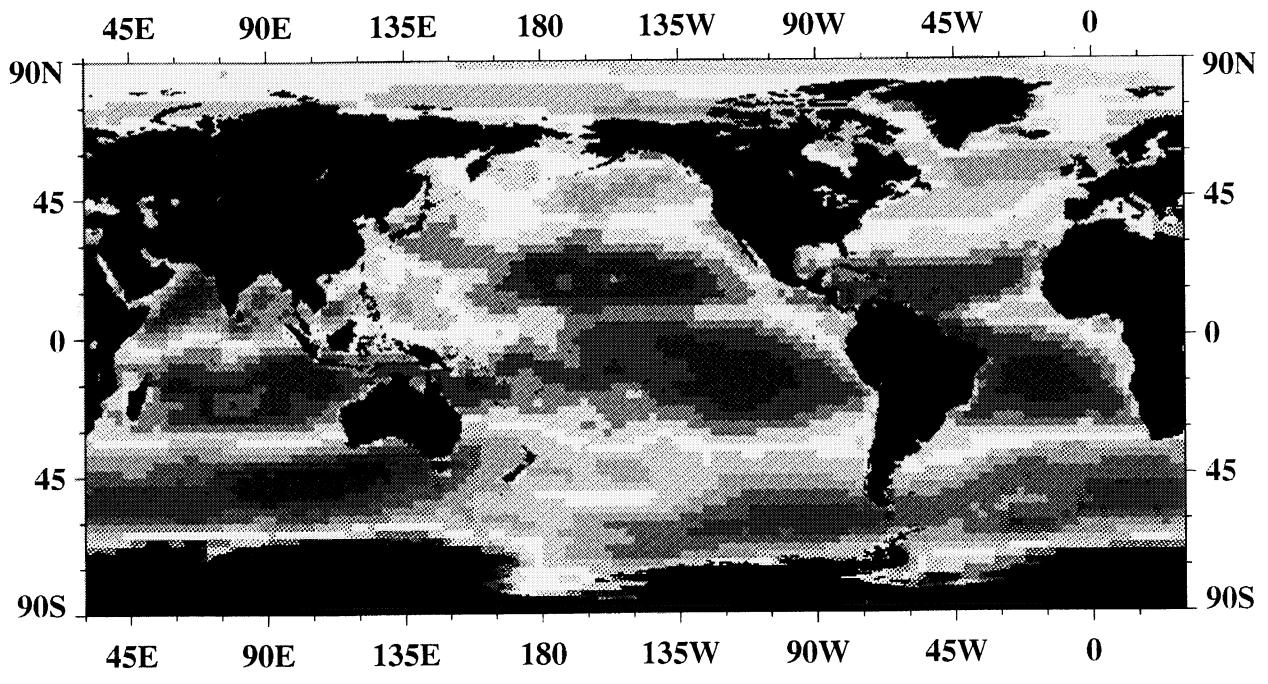


Zonal Wind Speed, July 1991

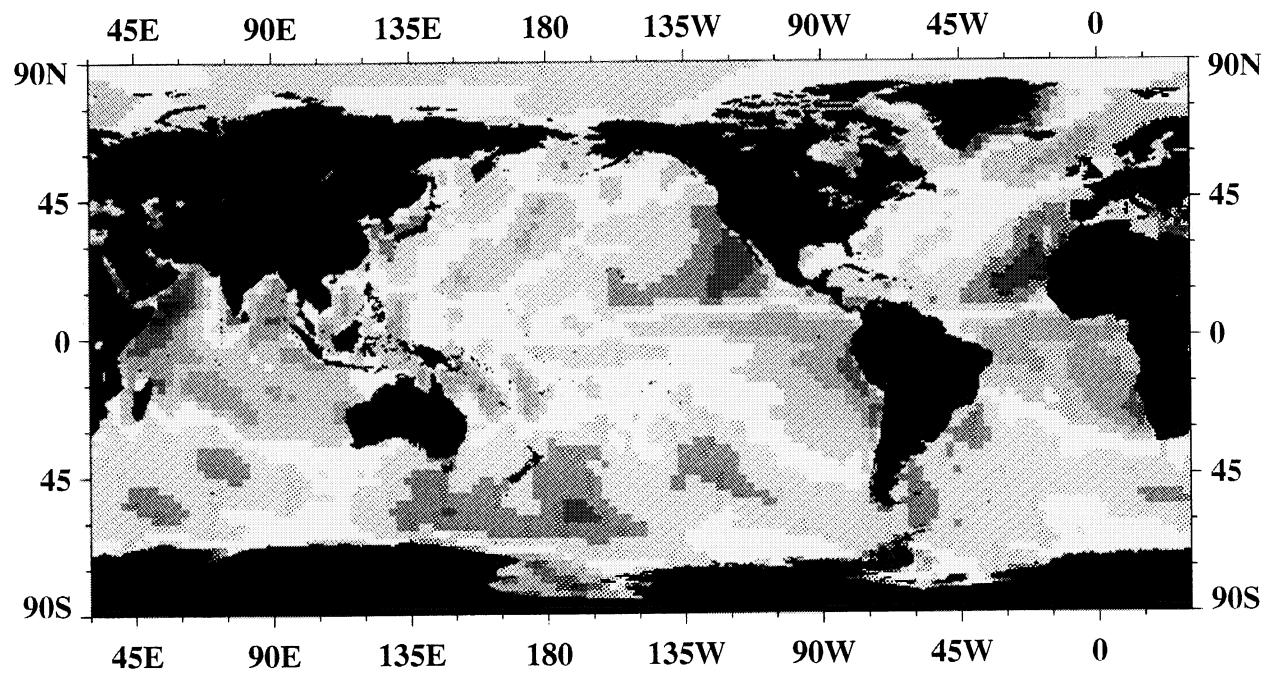


Meridional Wind Speed, July 1991

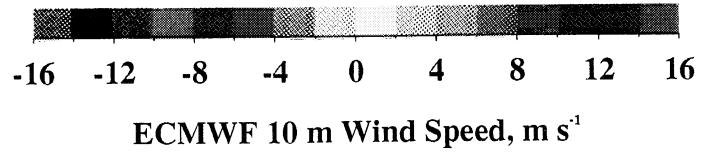


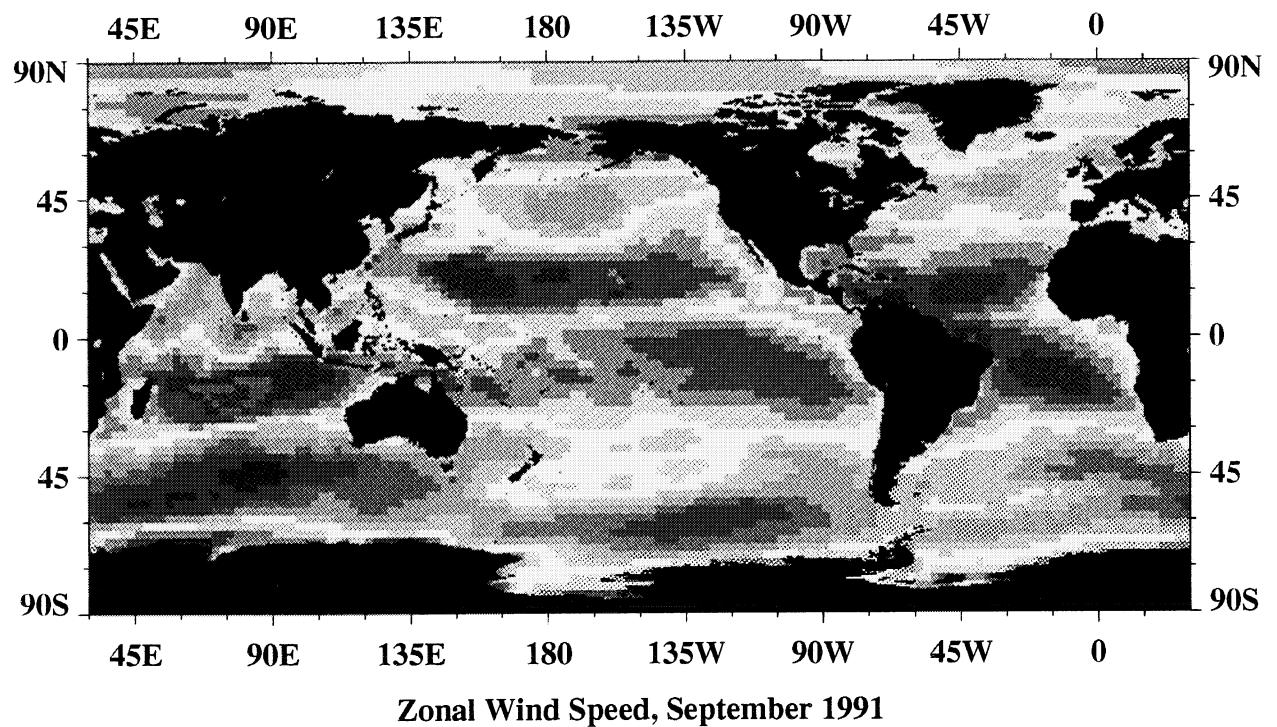


Zonal Wind Speed, August 1991

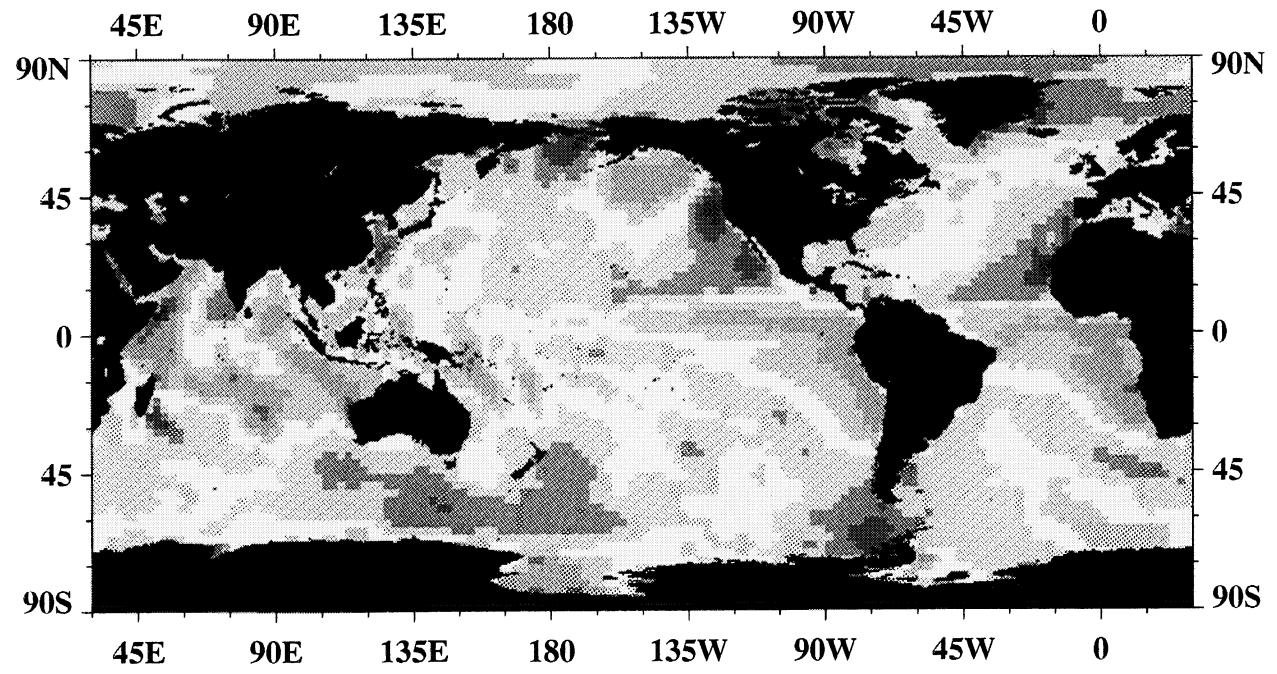


Meridional Wind Speed, August 1991

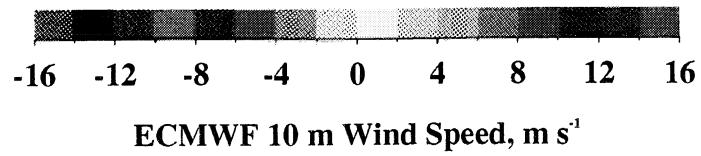


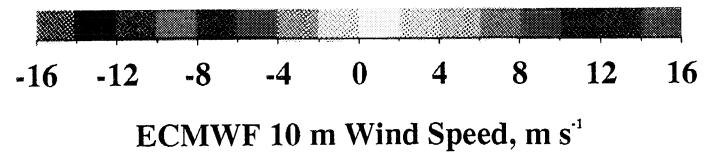
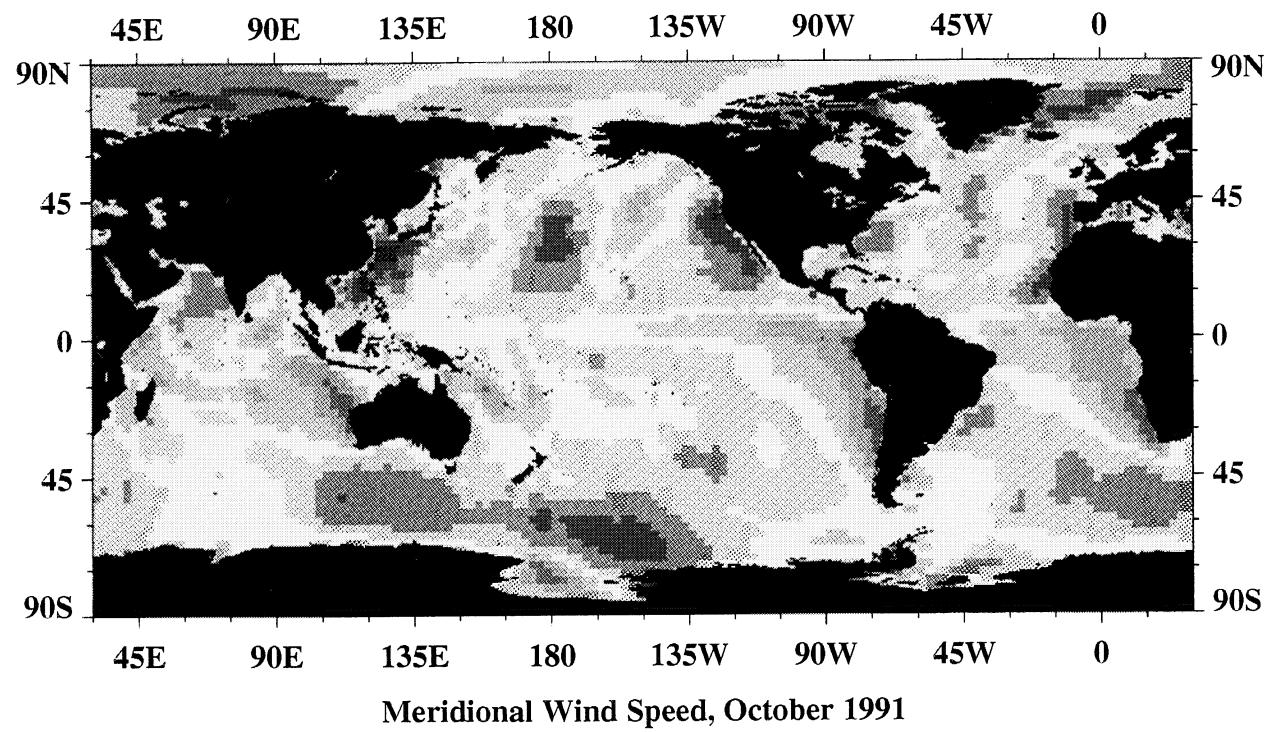
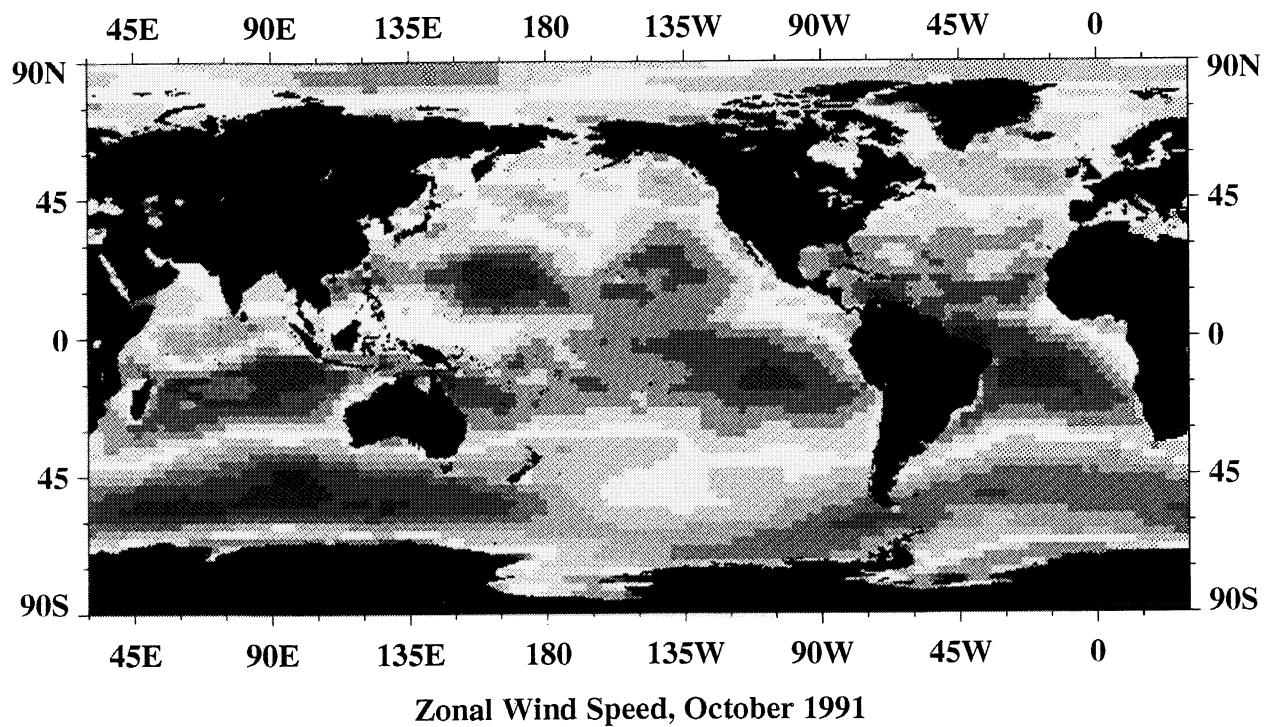


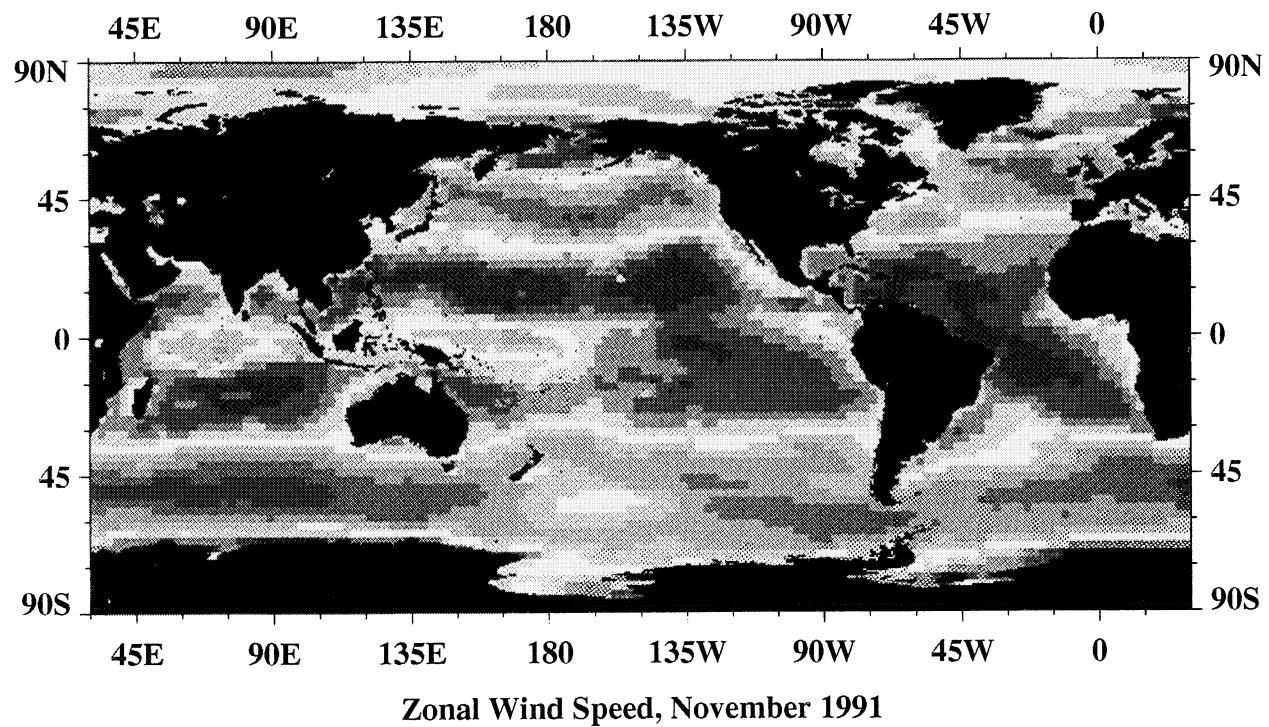
Zonal Wind Speed, September 1991



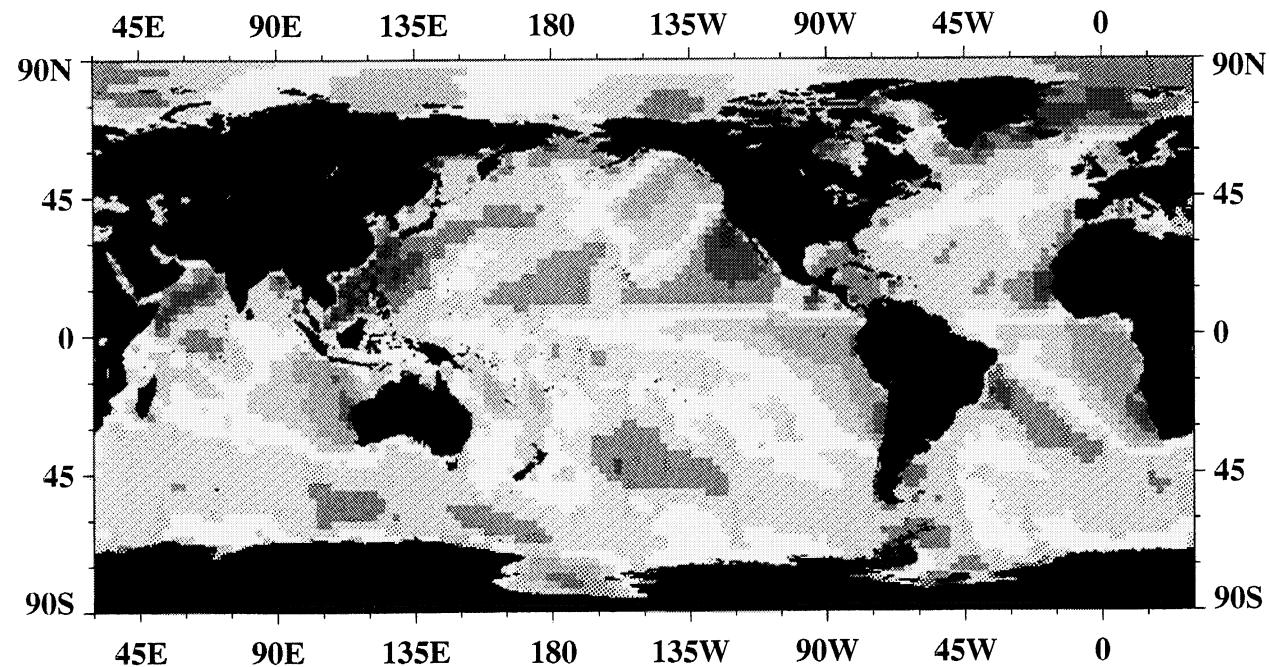
Meridional Wind Speed, September 1991



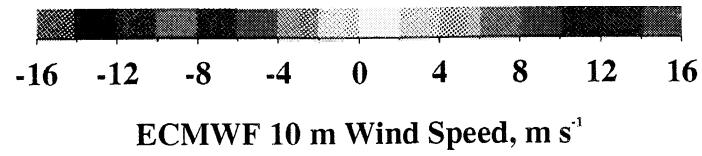




Zonal Wind Speed, November 1991

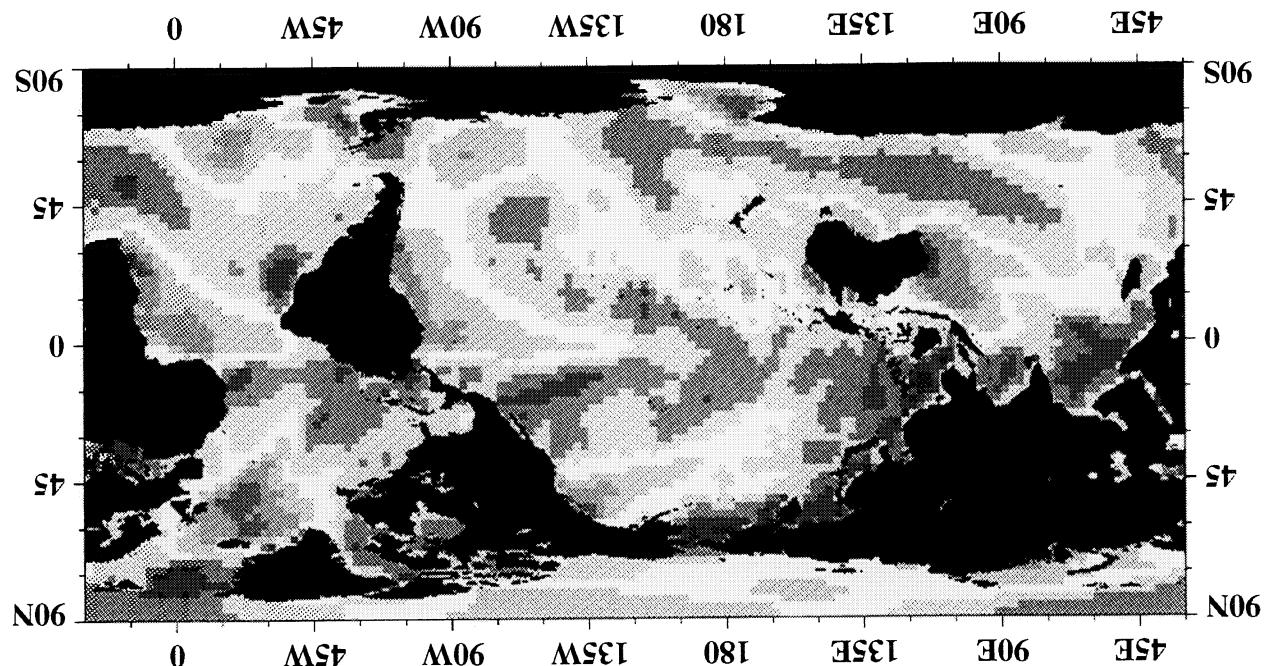


Meridional Wind Speed, November 1991

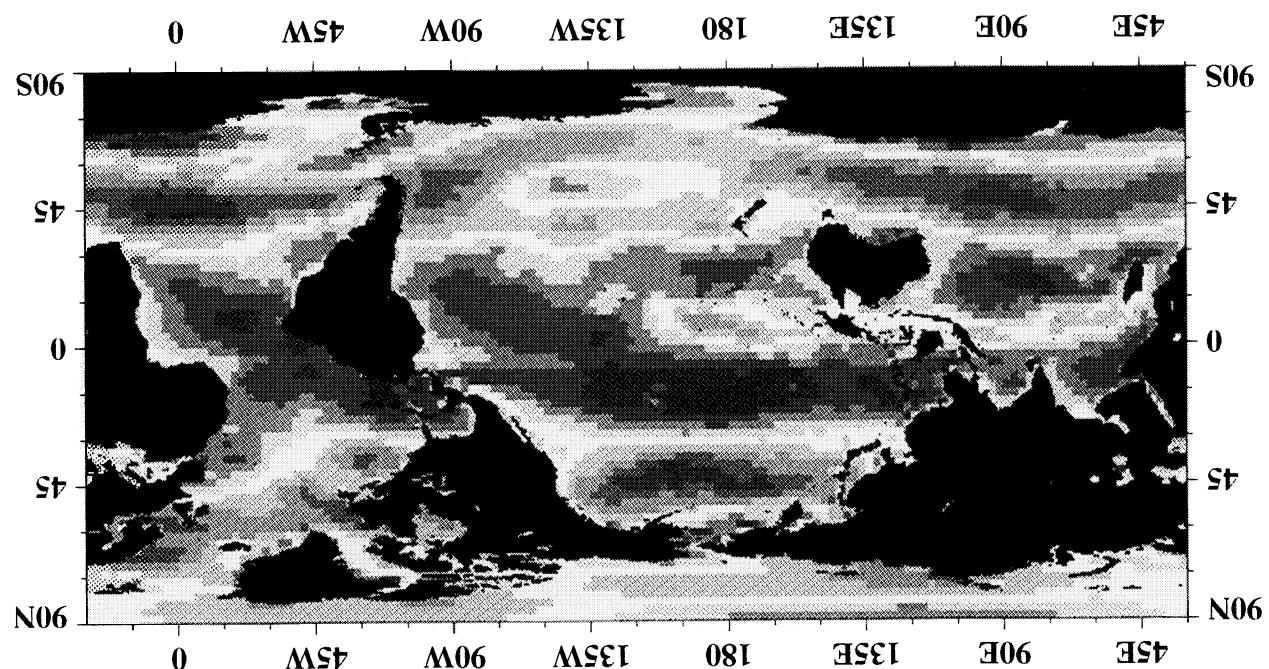


ECMWF 10 m Wind Speed, m s⁻¹

Meridional Wind Speed, December 1991

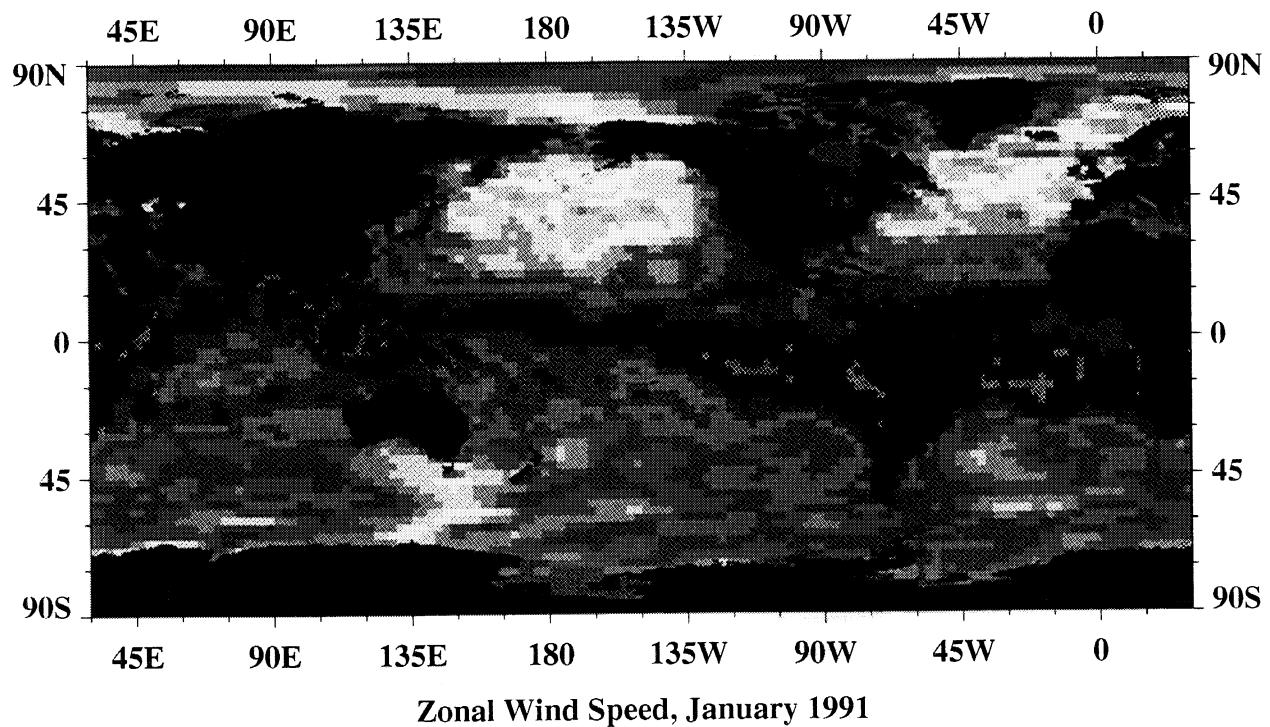


Zonal Wind Speed, December 1991

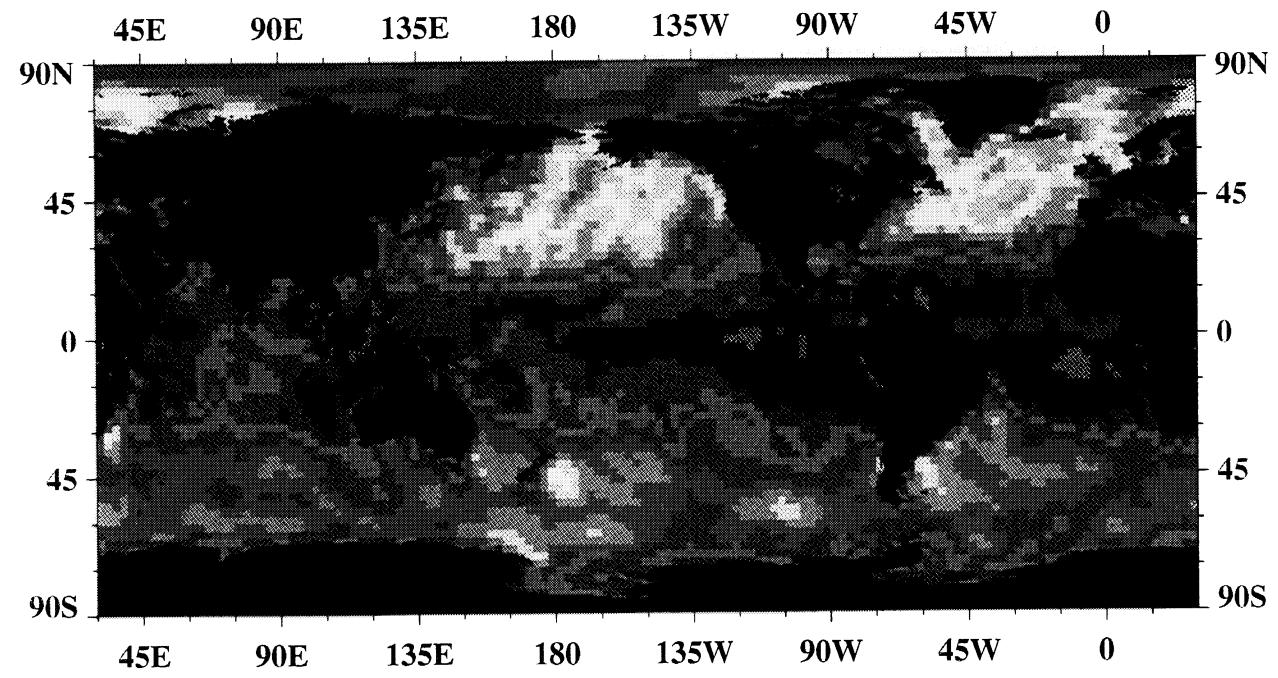


A11

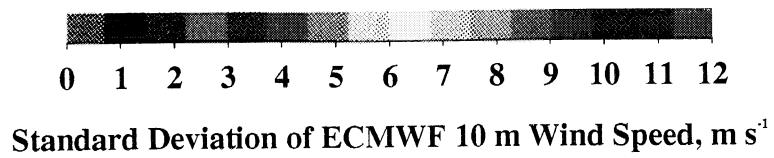
Monthly Standard Deviation of ECMWF Surface Wind Components



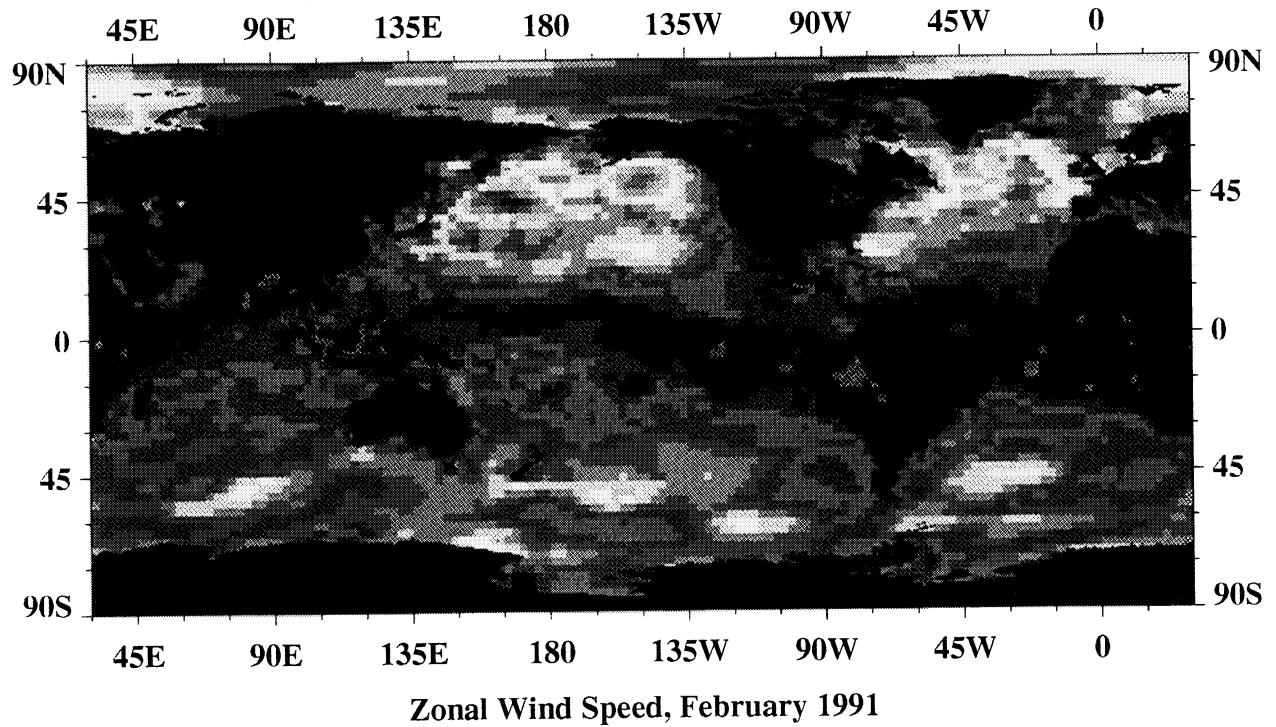
Zonal Wind Speed, January 1991



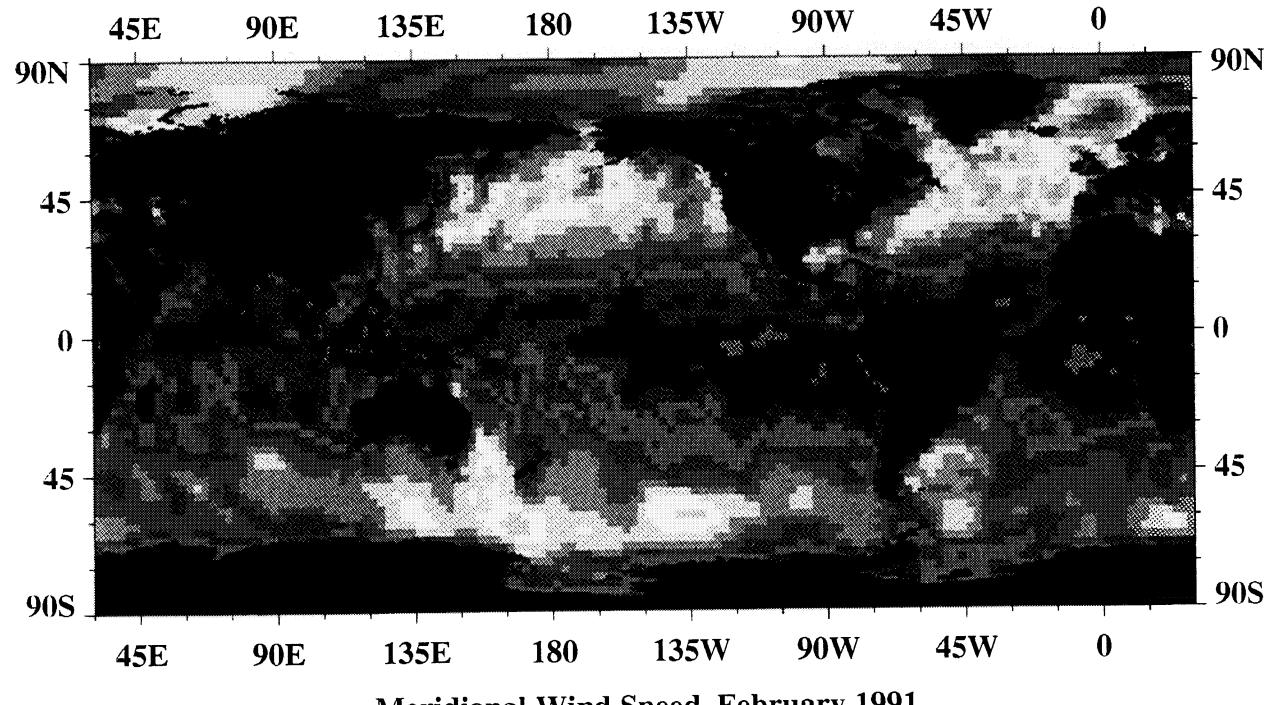
Meridional Wind Speed, January 1991



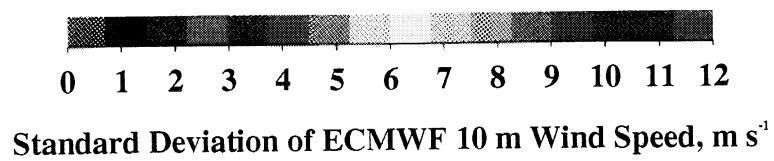
Standard Deviation of ECMWF 10 m Wind Speed, m s^{-1}



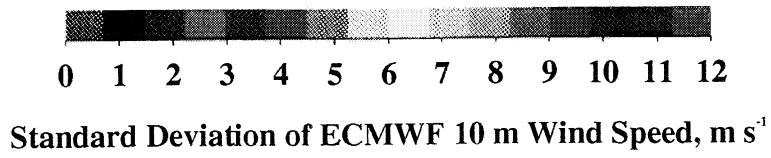
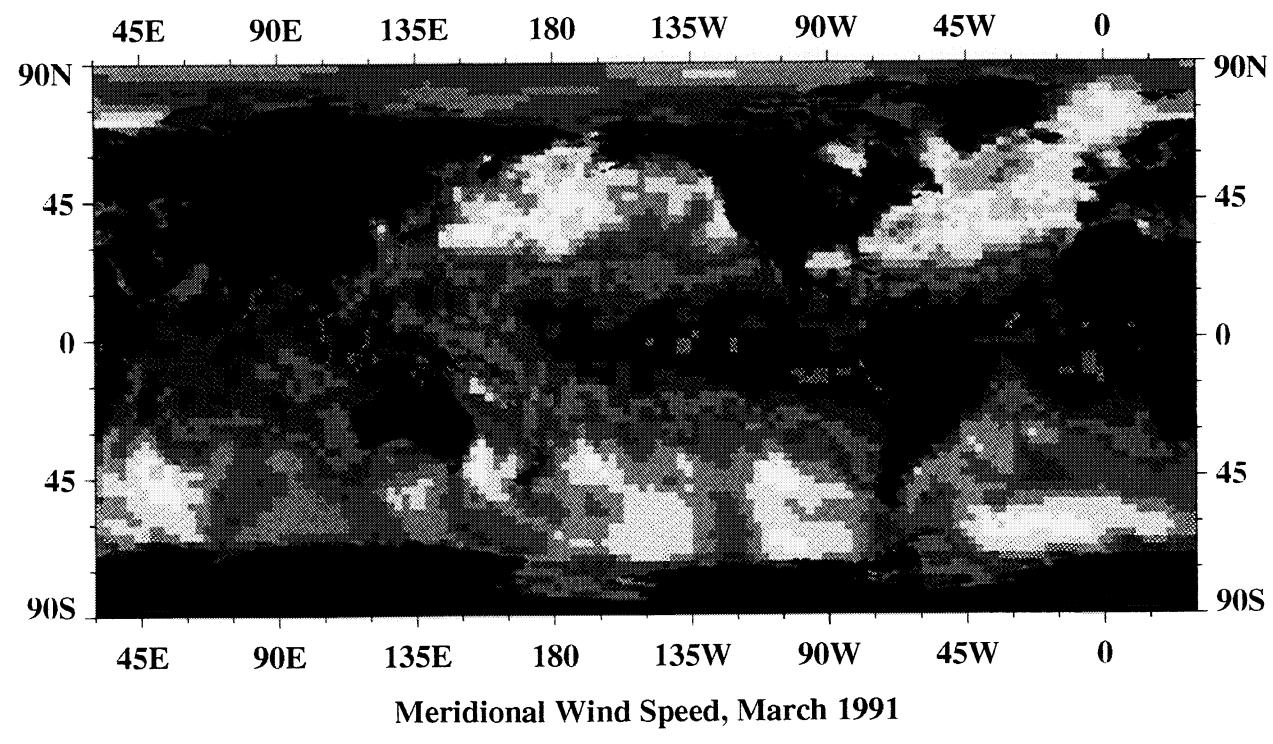
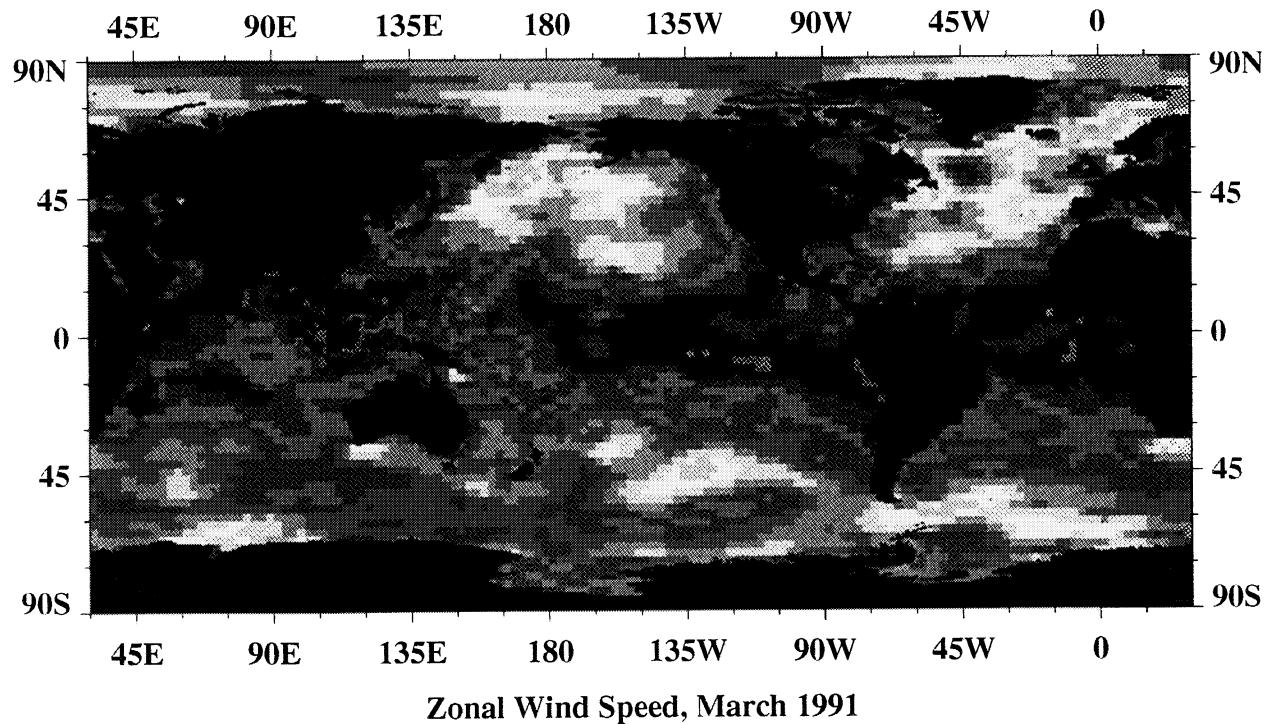
Zonal Wind Speed, February 1991

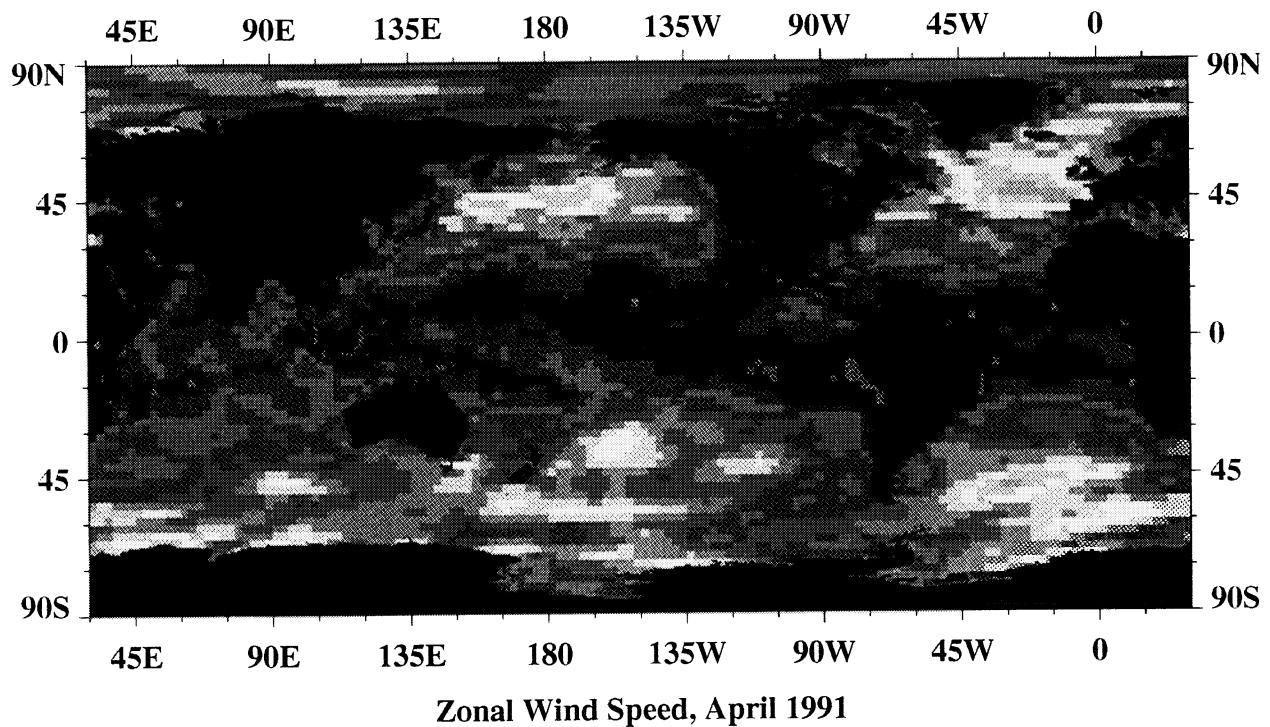


Meridional Wind Speed, February 1991

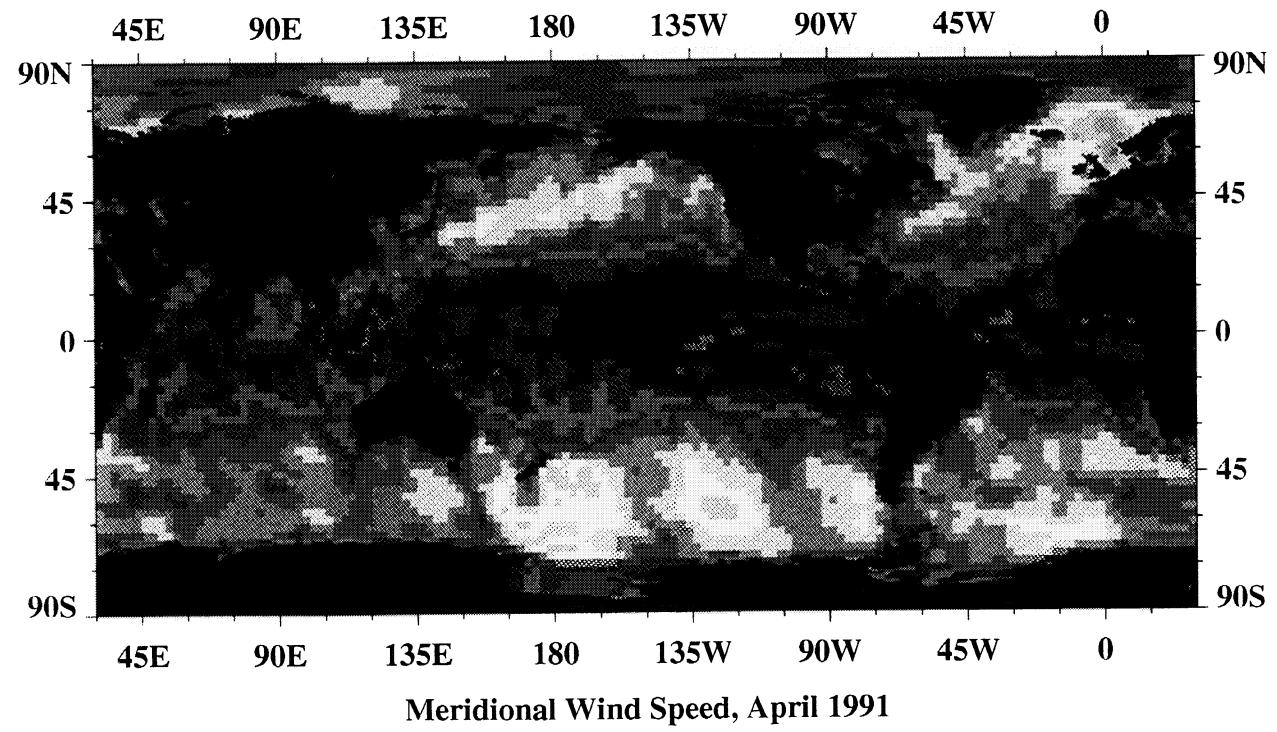


Standard Deviation of ECMWF 10 m Wind Speed, m s⁻¹

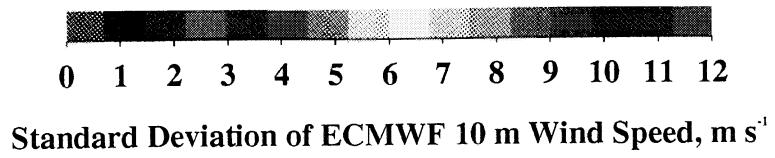


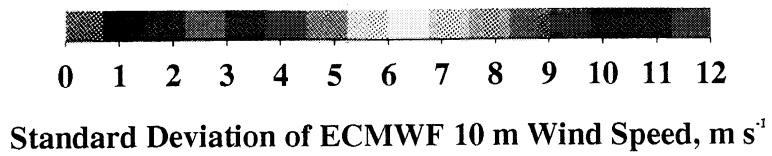
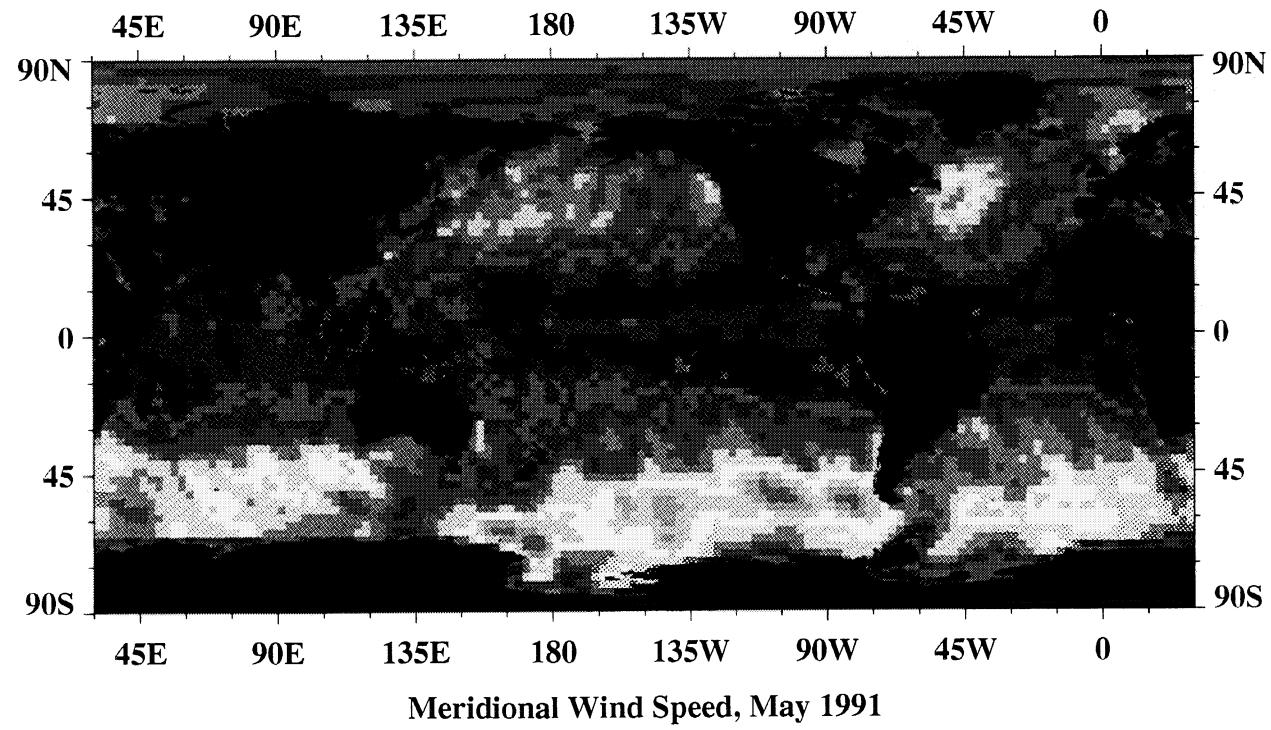
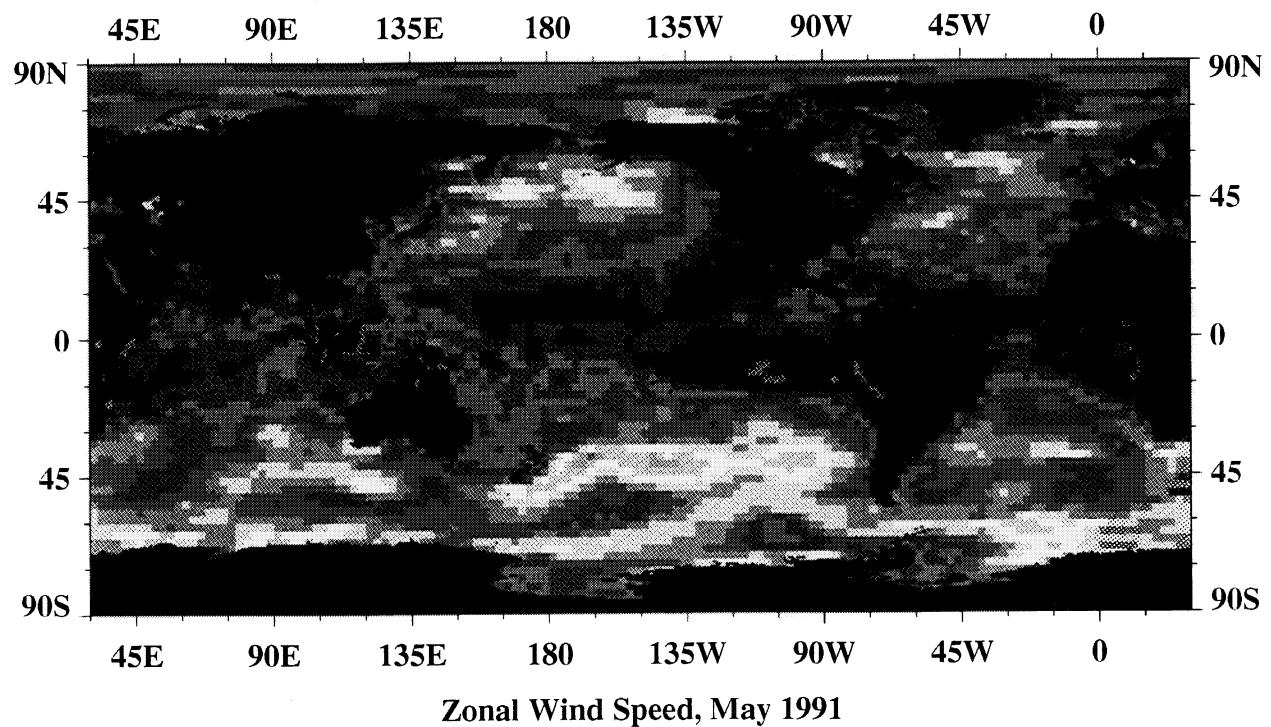


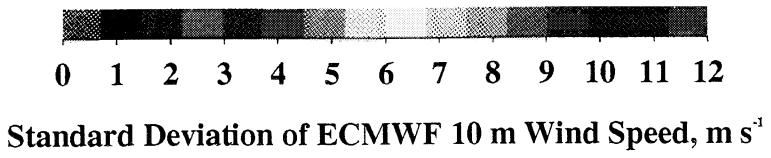
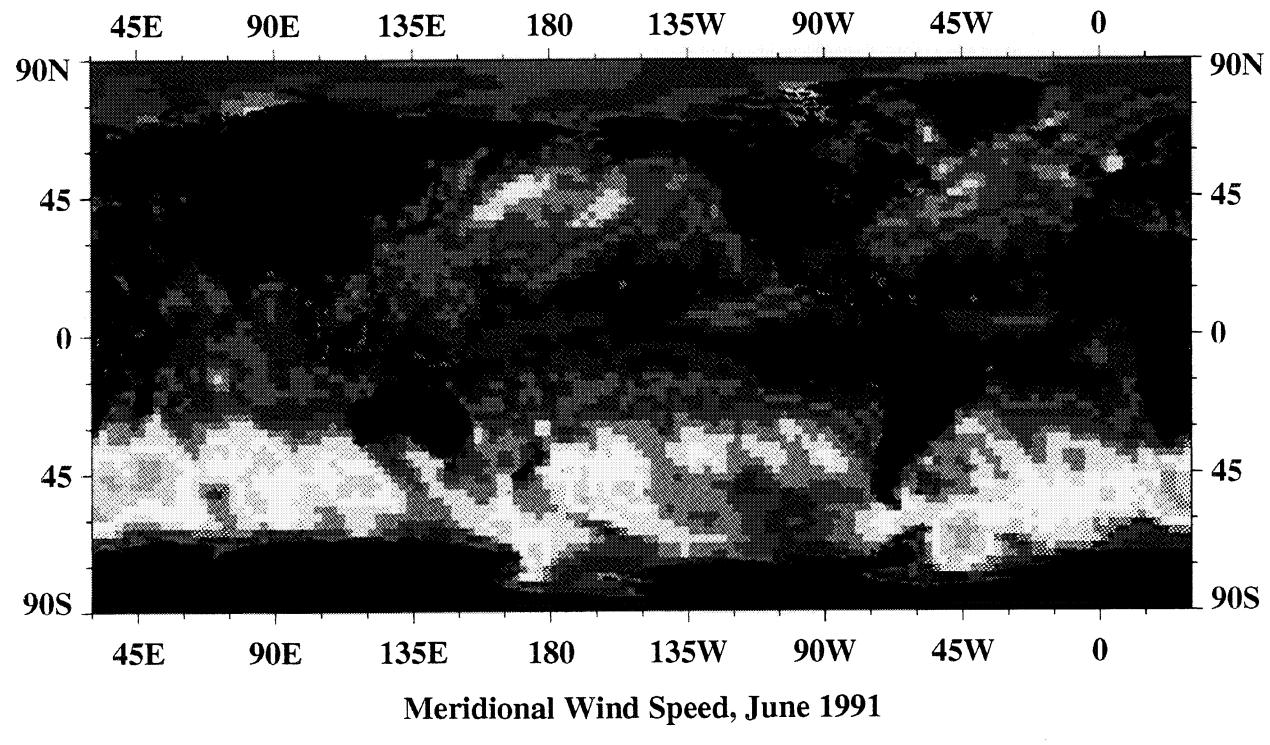
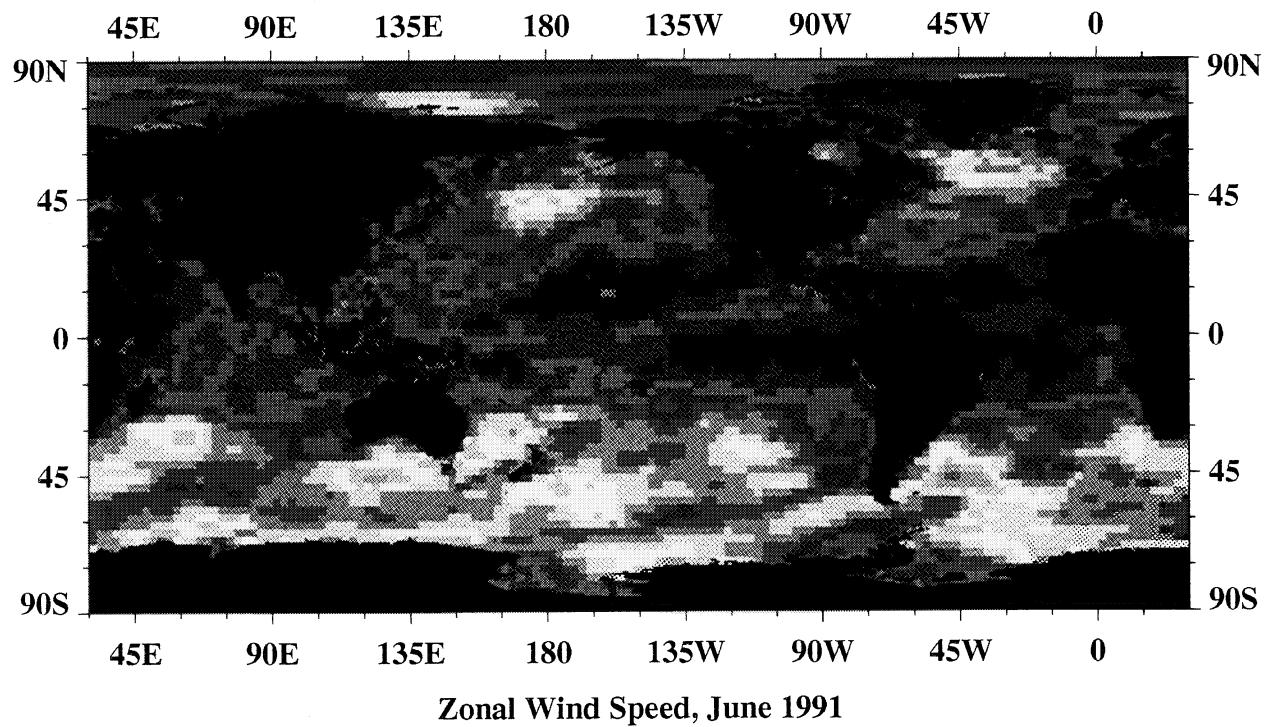
Zonal Wind Speed, April 1991

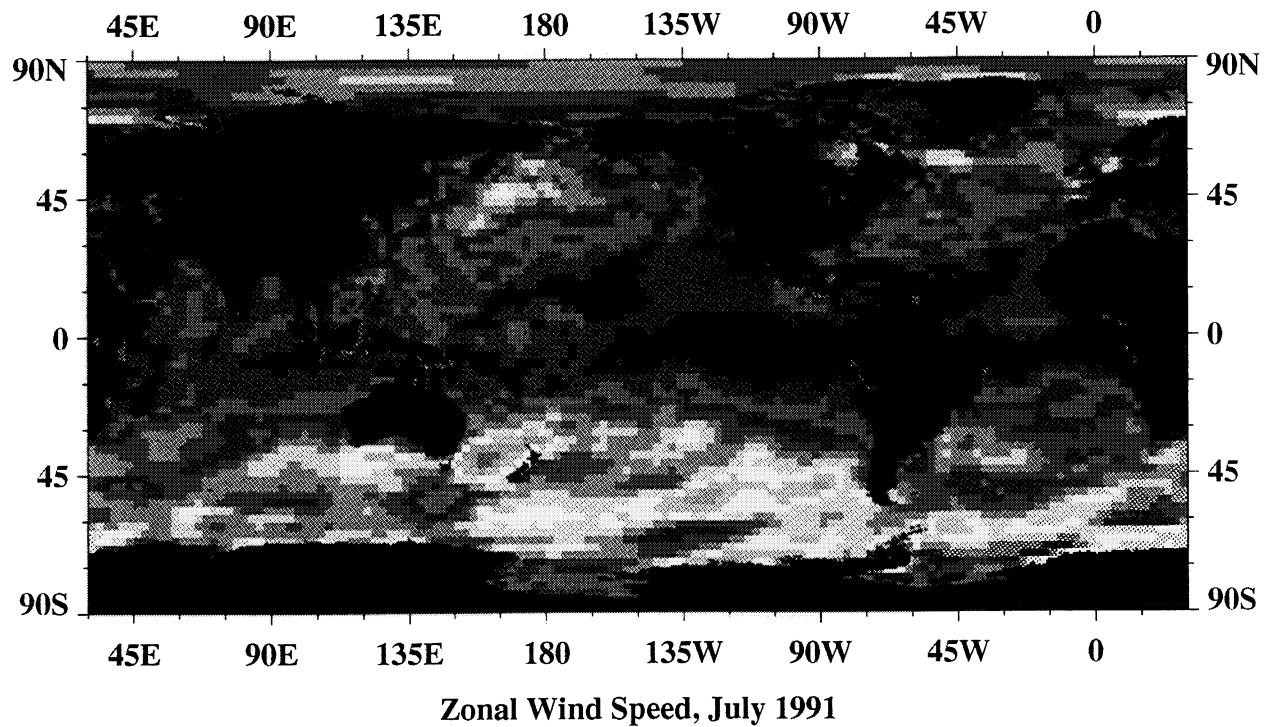


Meridional Wind Speed, April 1991

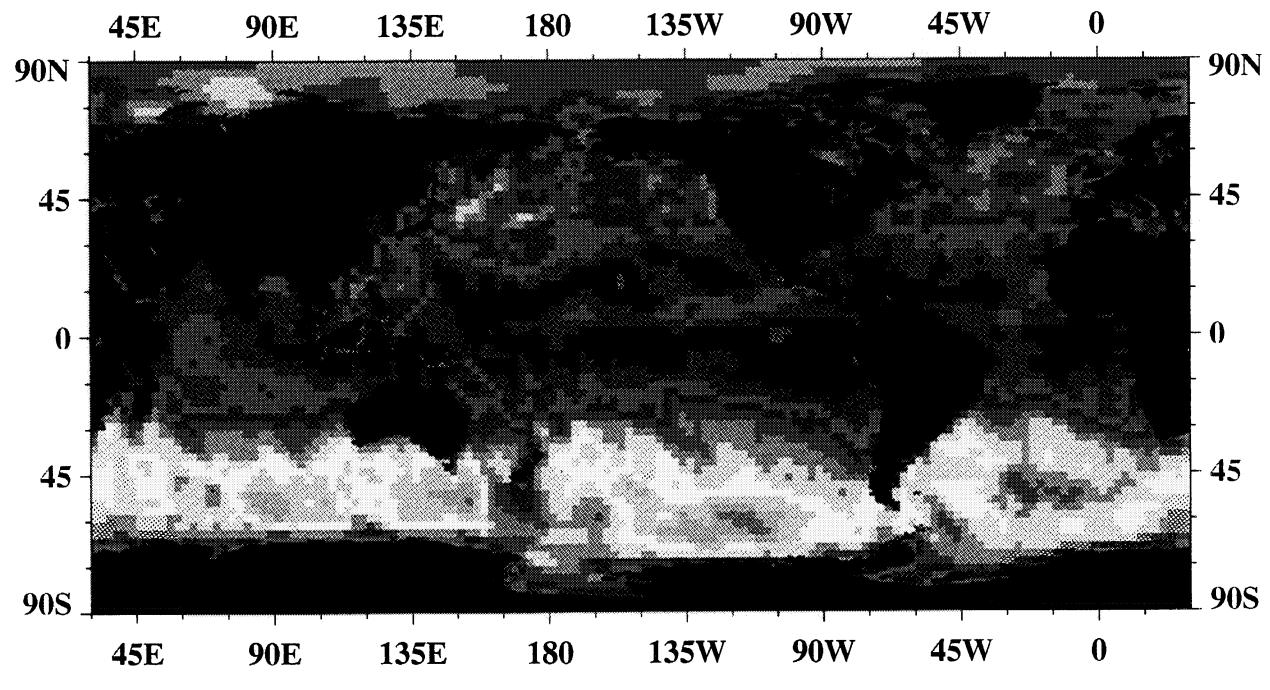




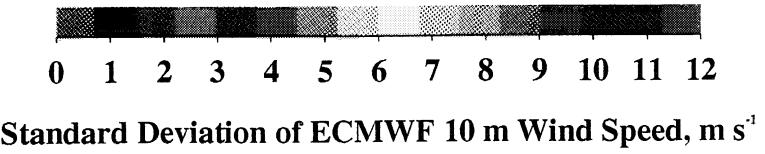


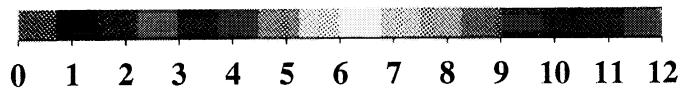
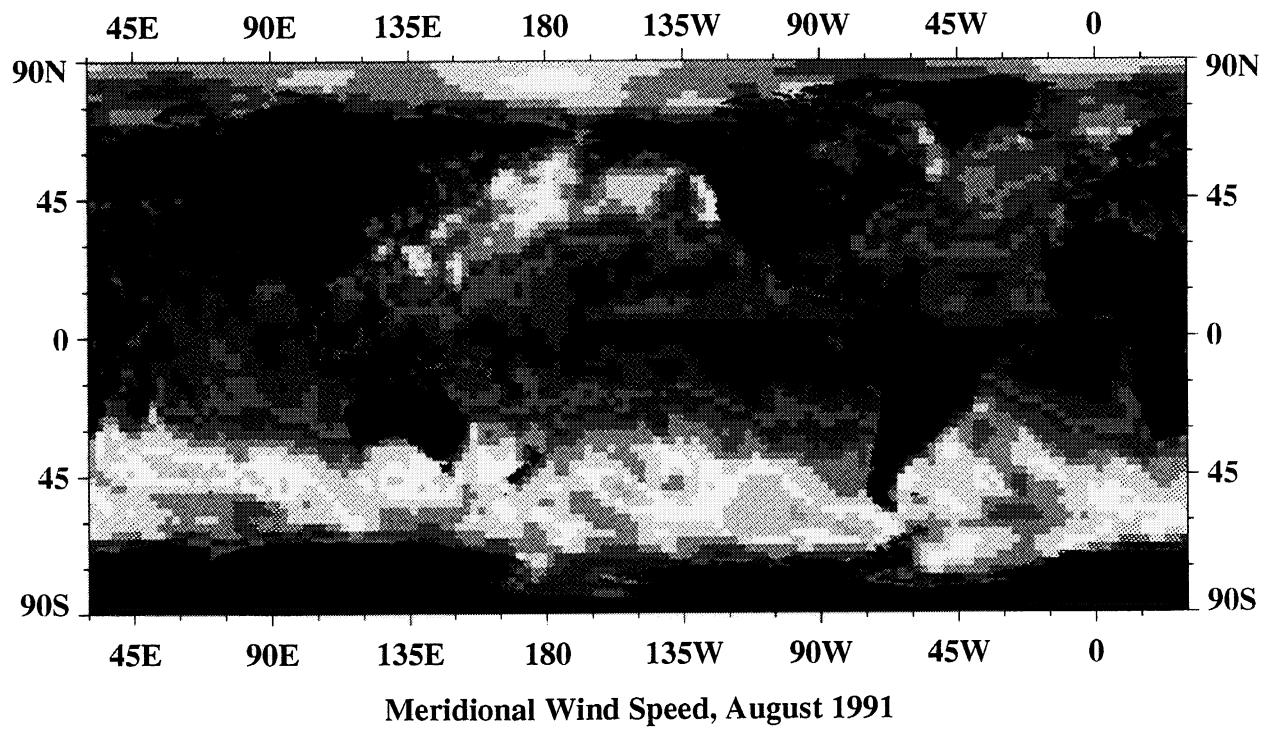
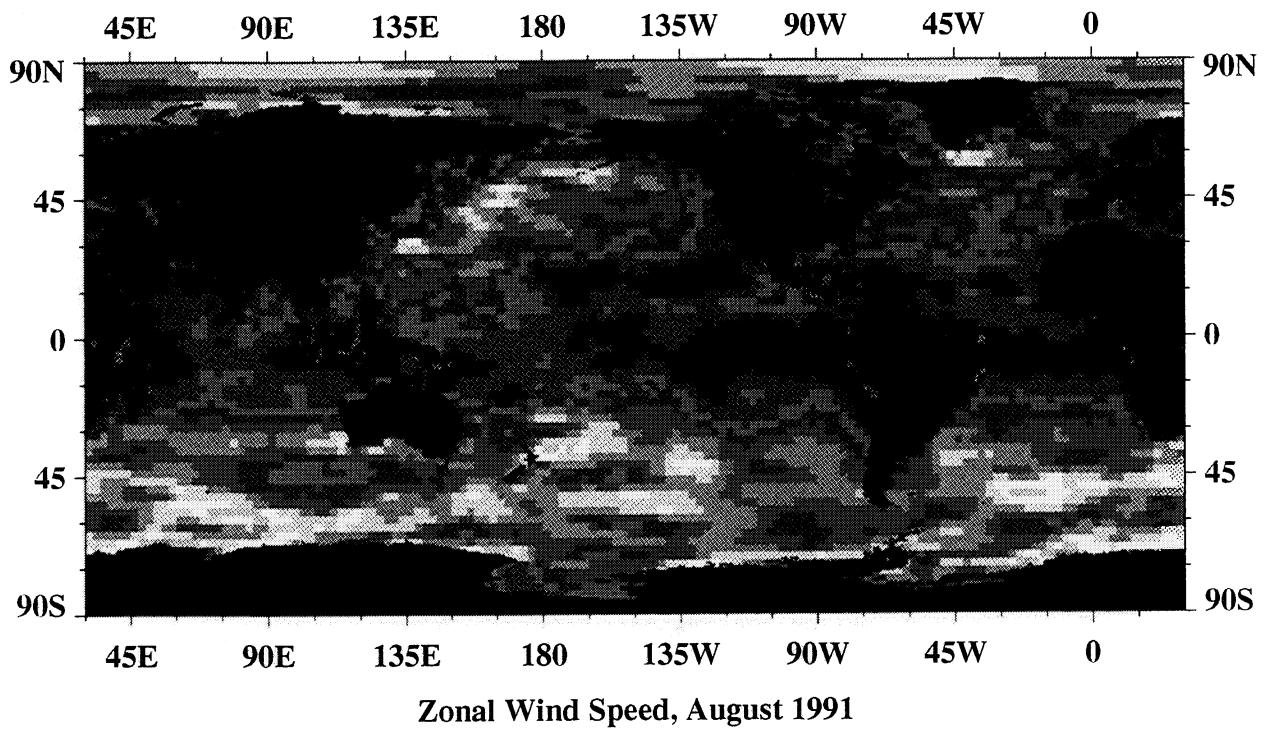


Zonal Wind Speed, July 1991

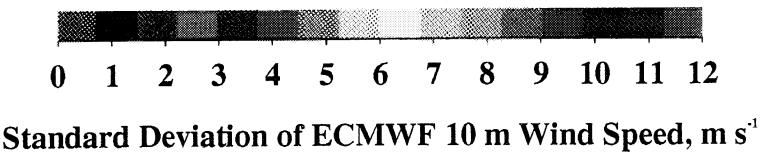
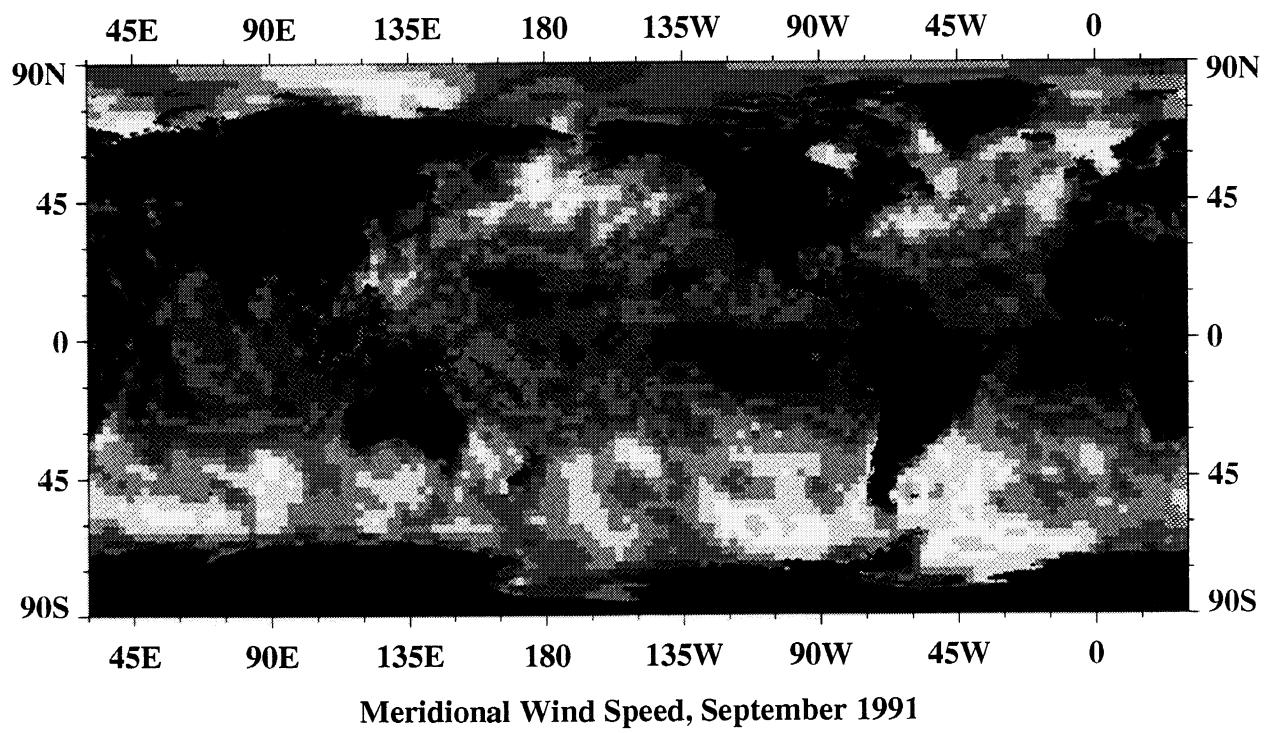
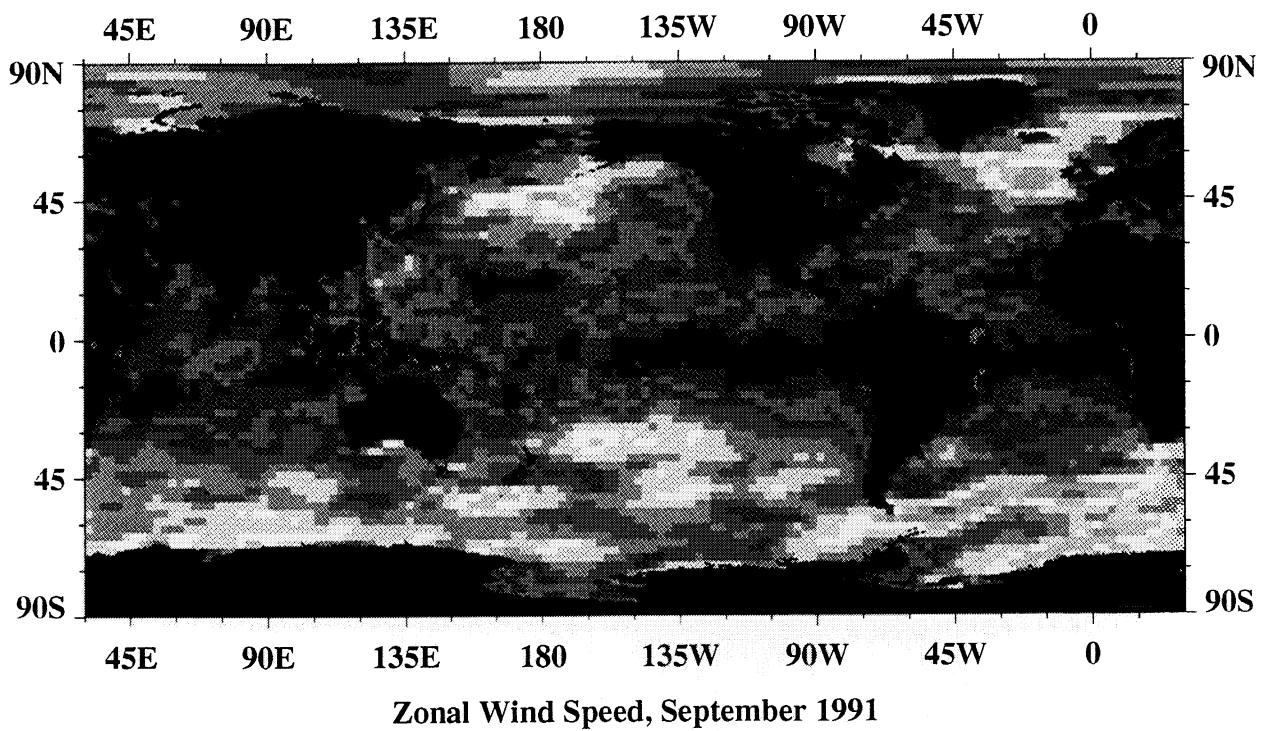


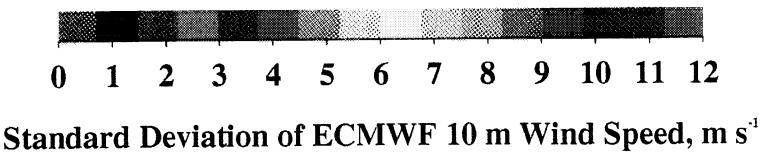
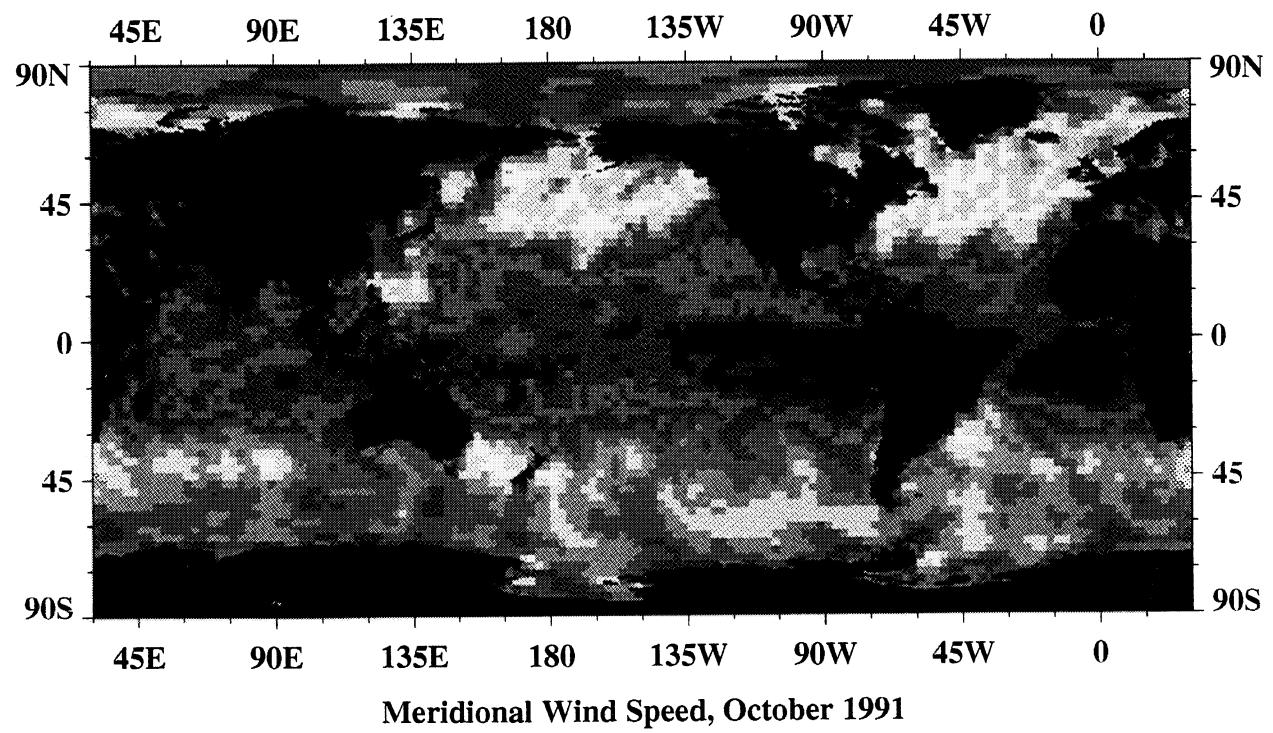
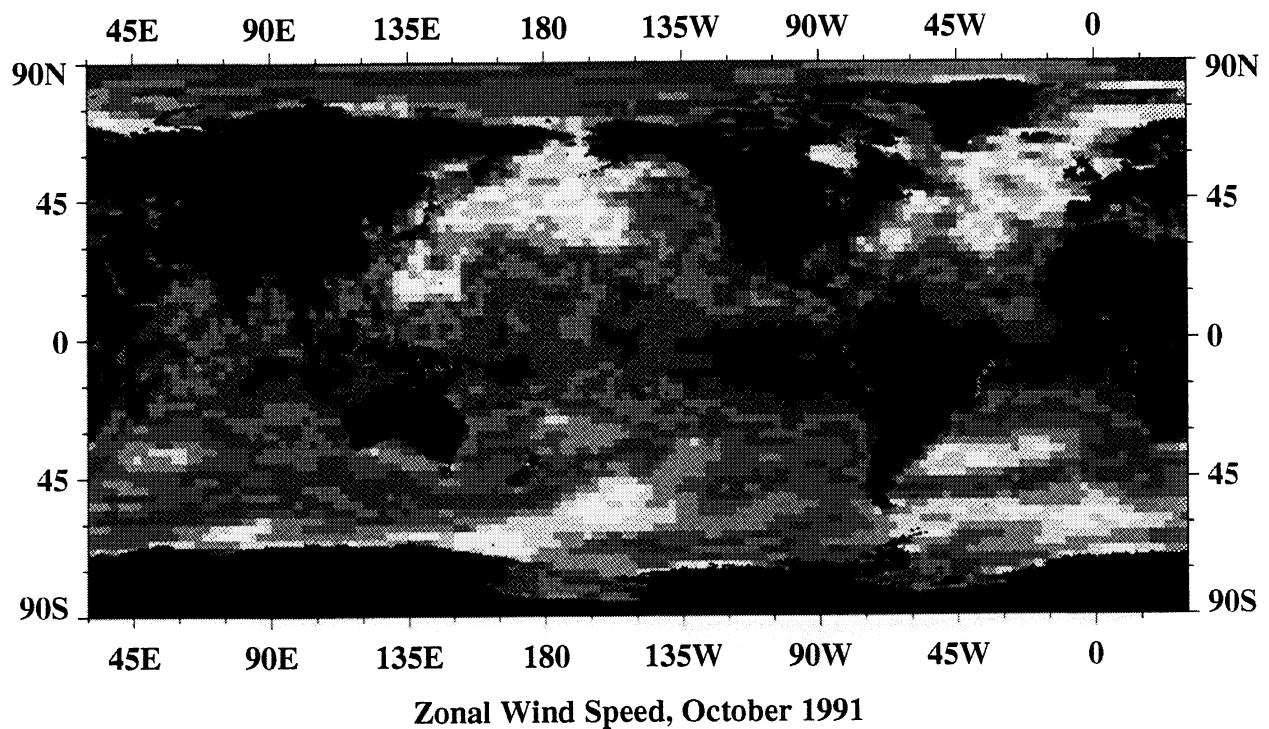
Meridional Wind Speed, July 1991

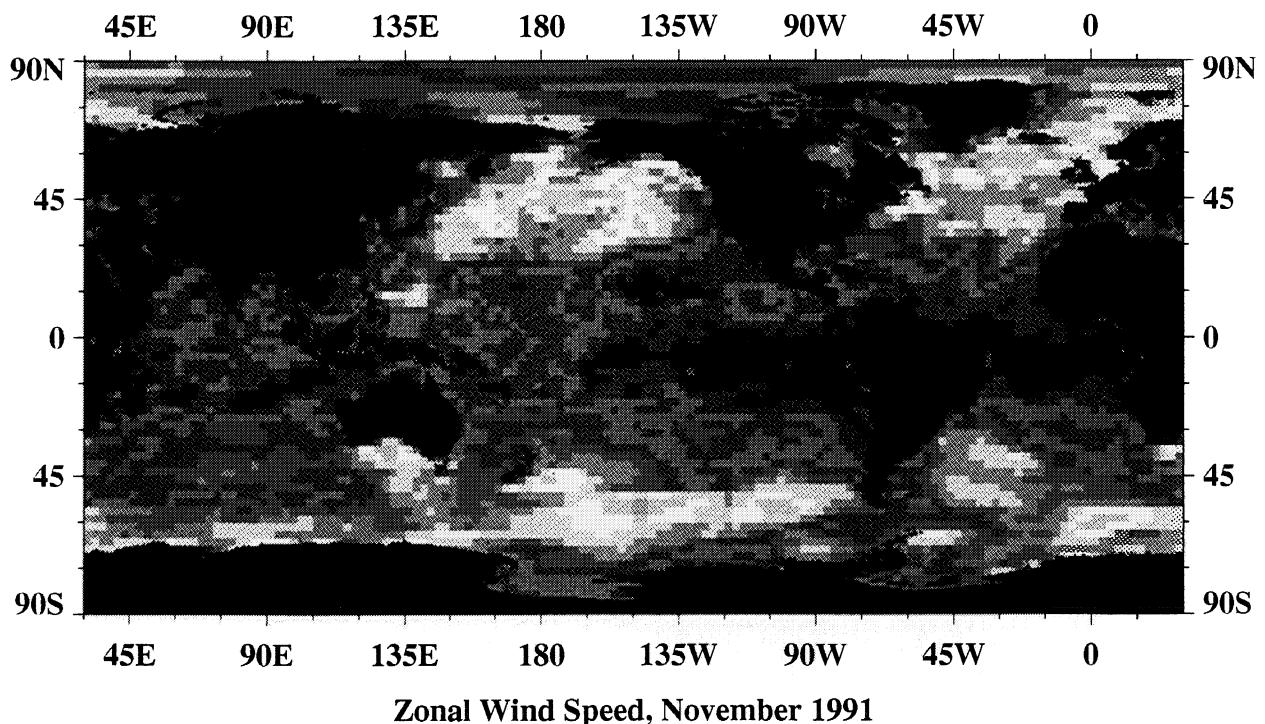




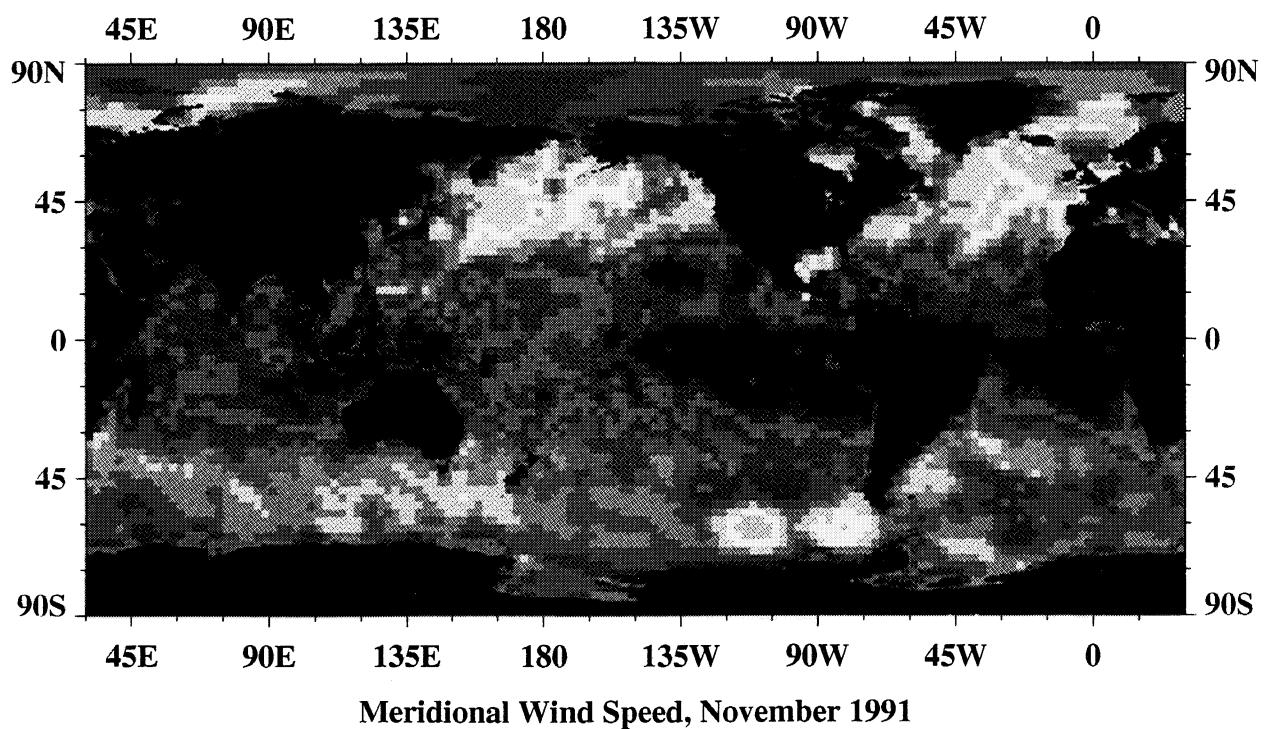
Standard Deviation of ECMWF 10 m Wind Speed, m s⁻¹



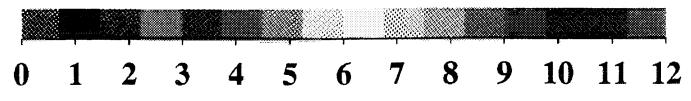




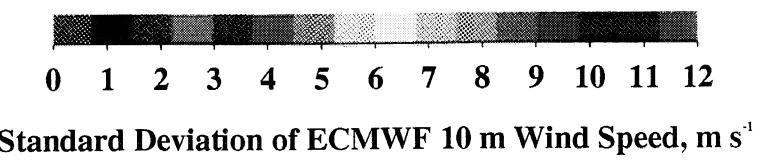
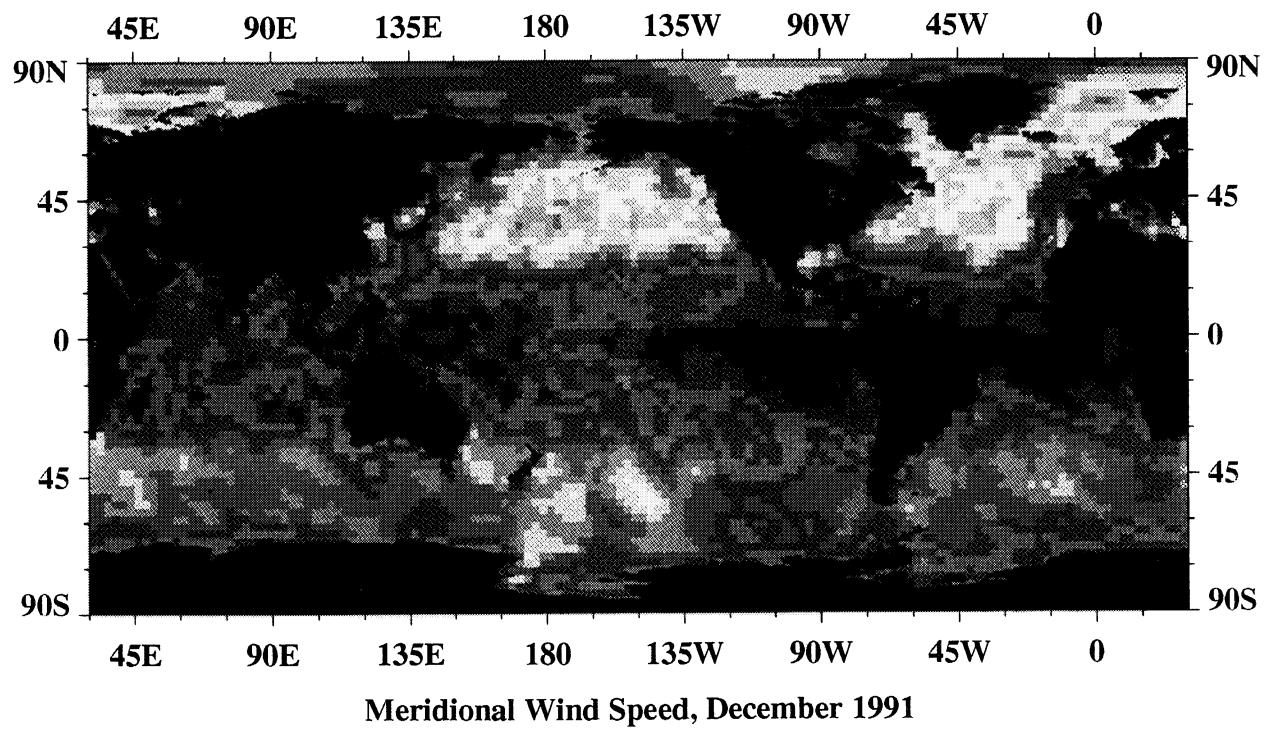
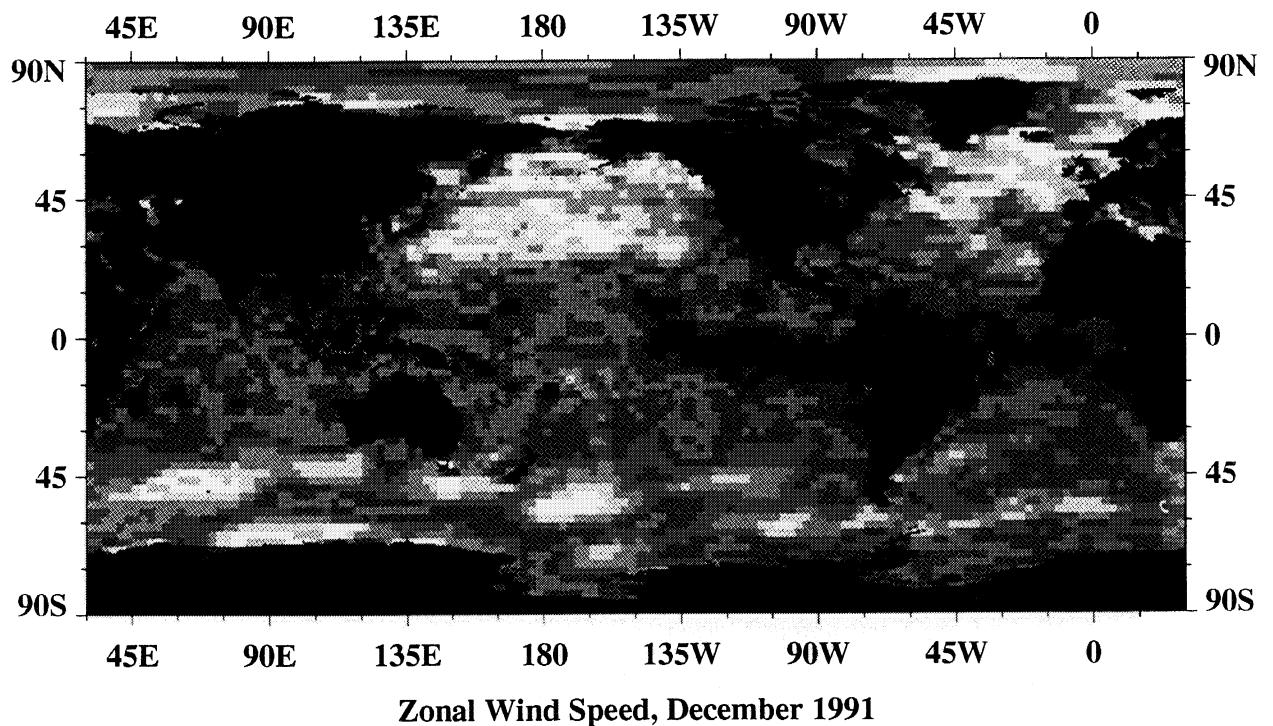
Zonal Wind Speed, November 1991



Meridional Wind Speed, November 1991

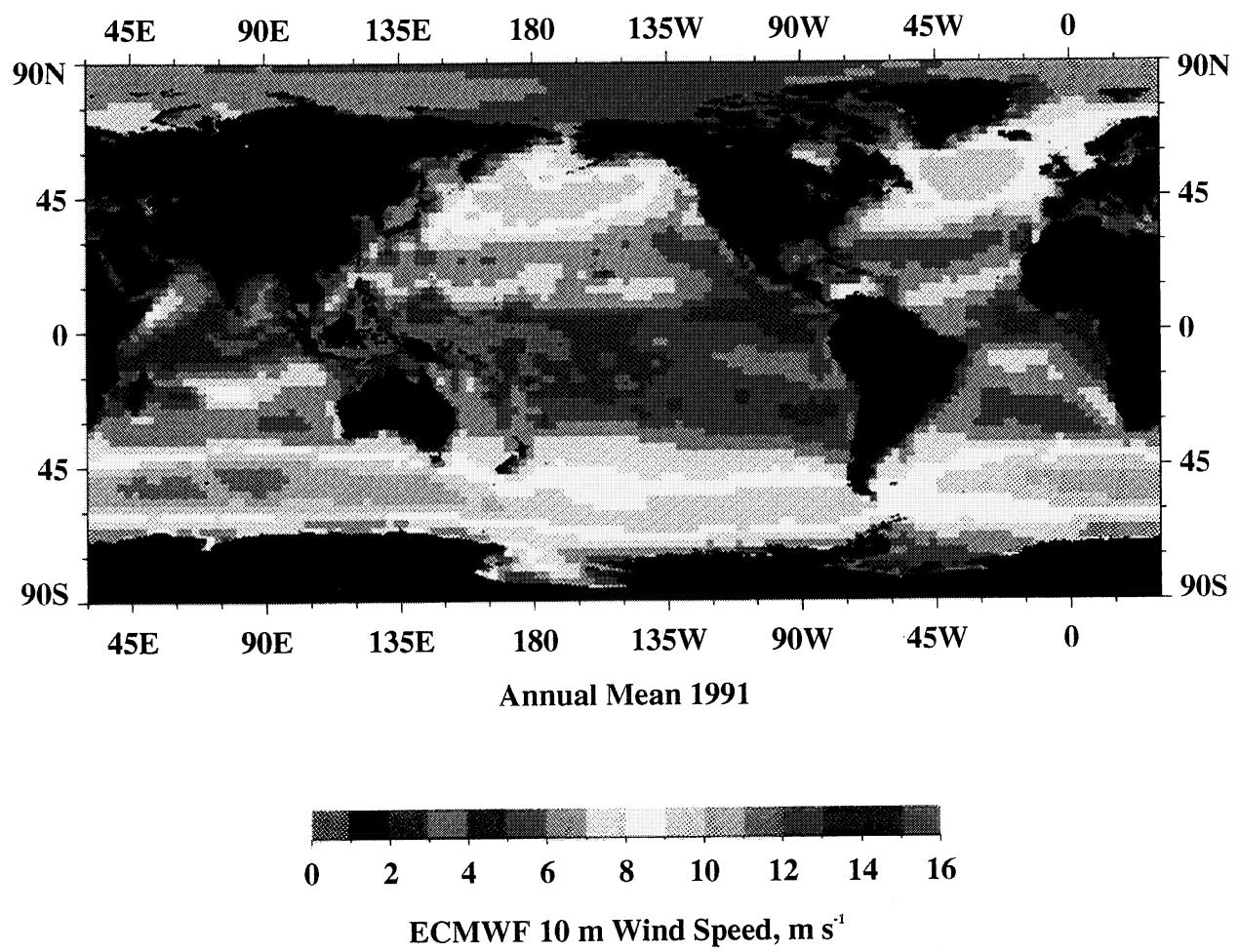


Standard Deviation of ECMWF 10 m Wind Speed, m s⁻¹



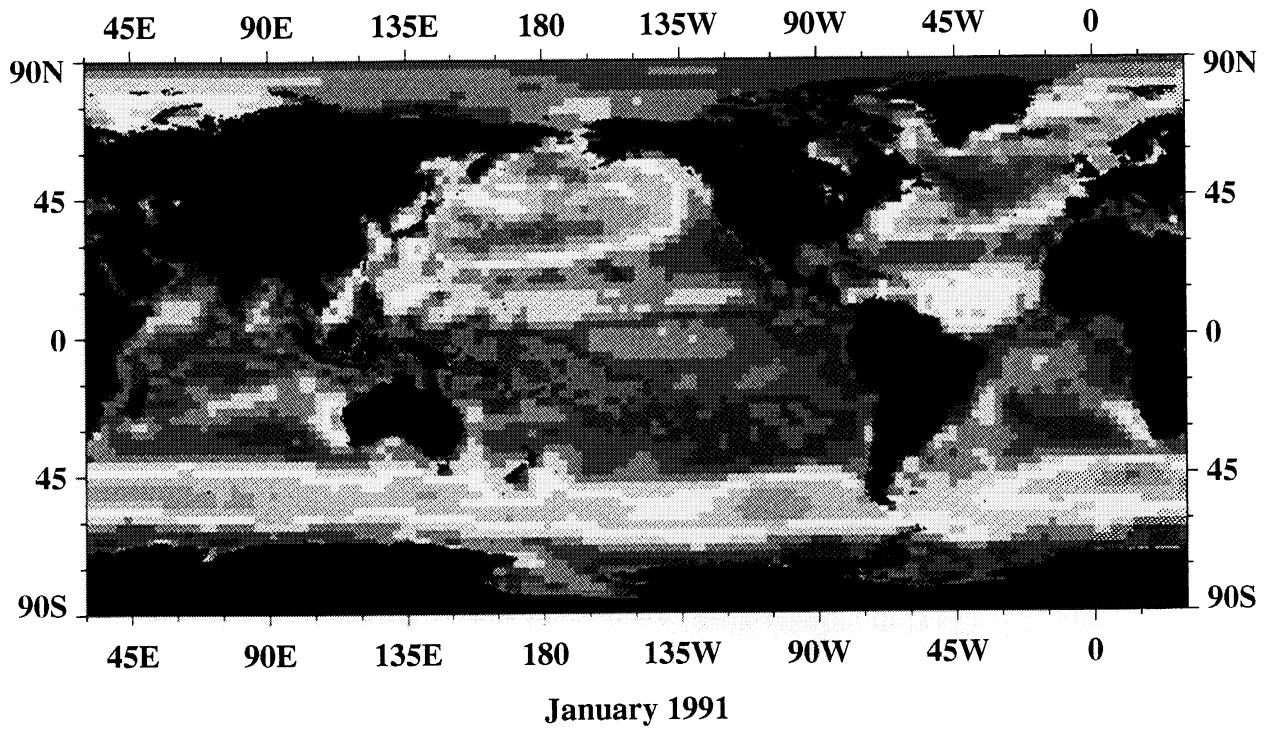
A12

Annual Mean ECMWF Surface Wind Speed

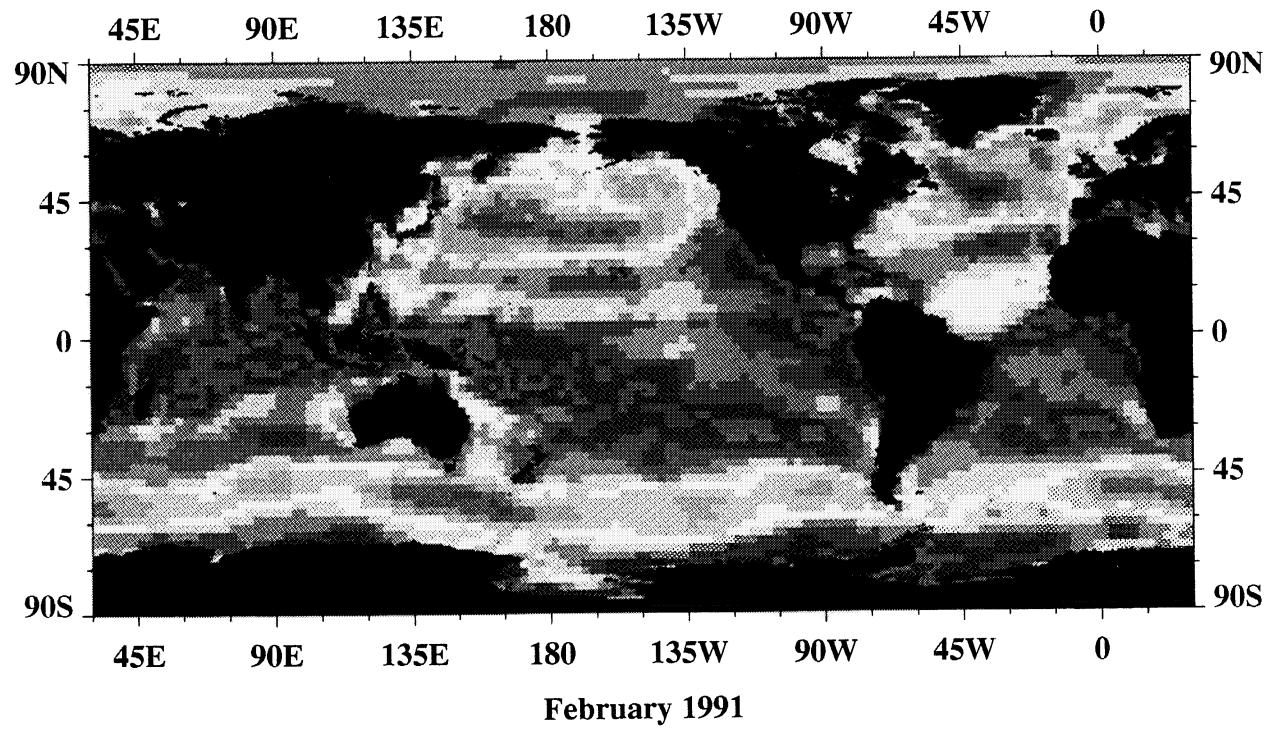


A13

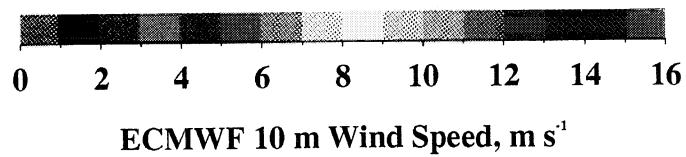
Monthly Mean ECMWF Surface Wind Speed

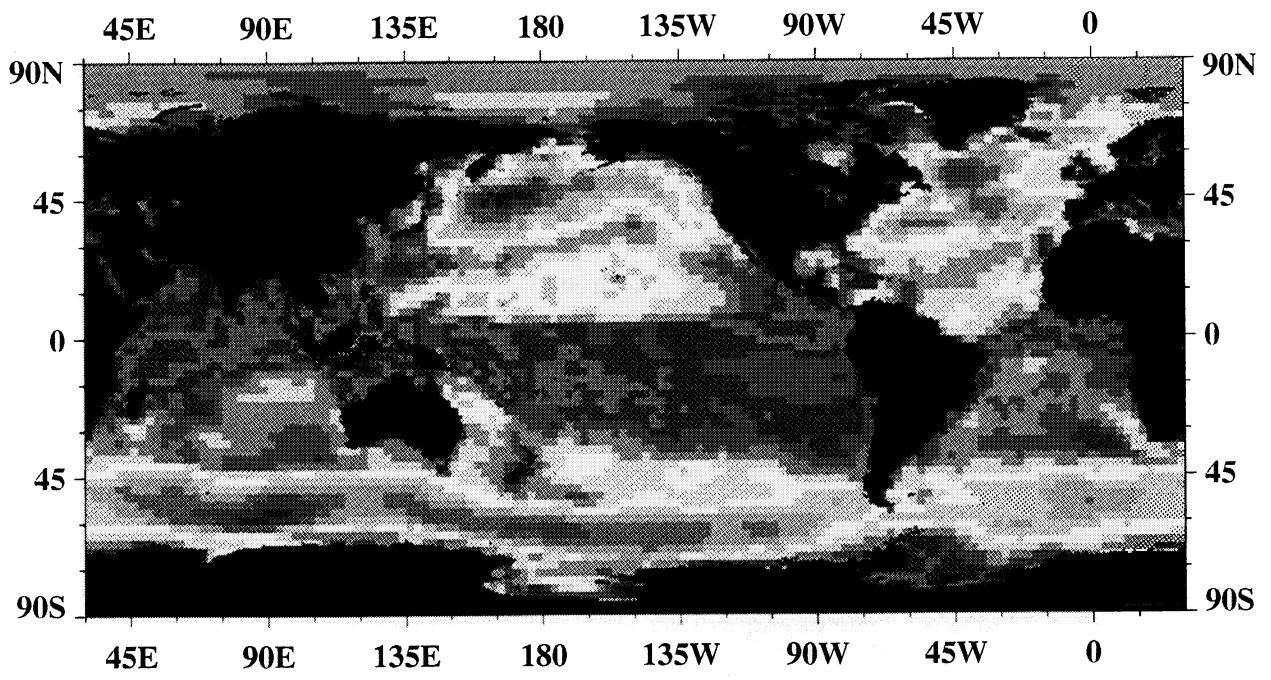


January 1991

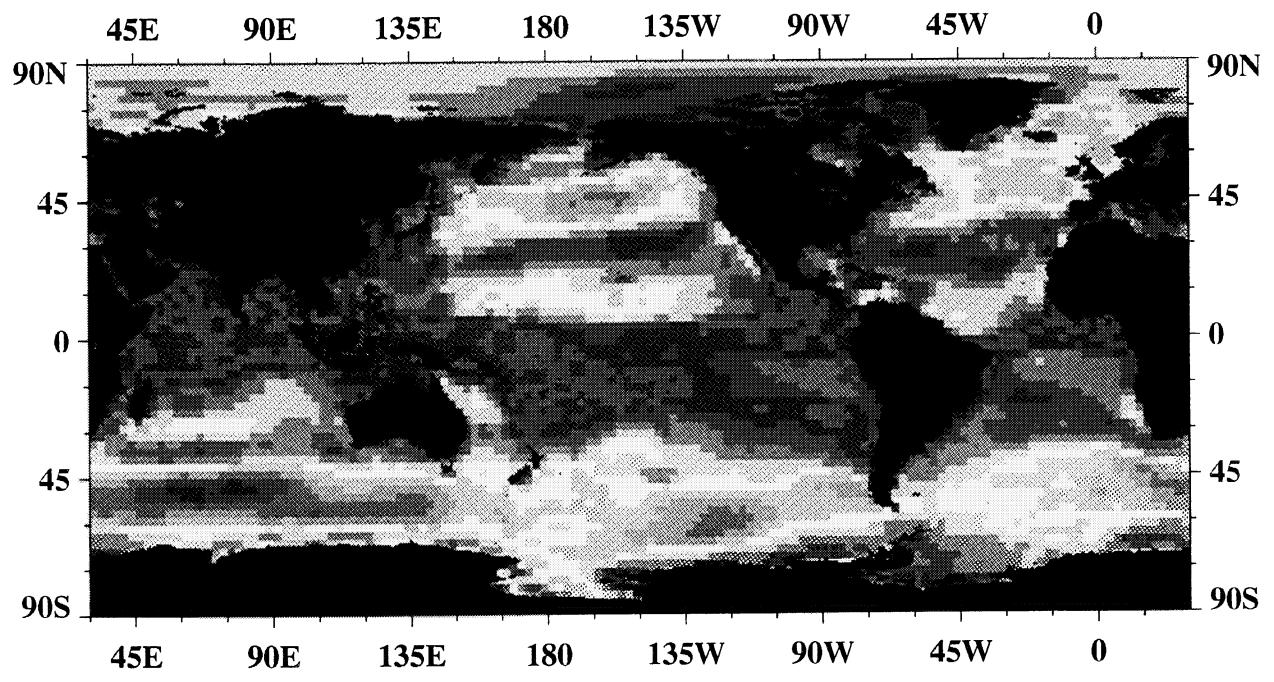


February 1991

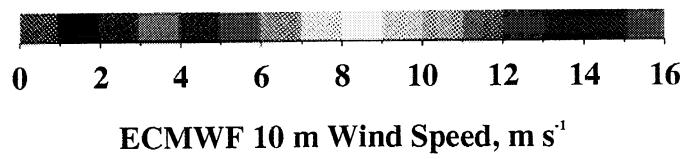


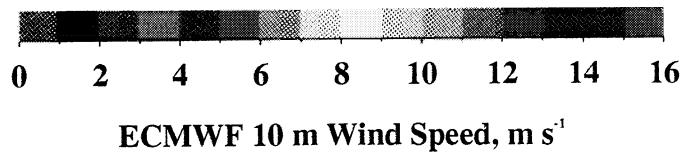
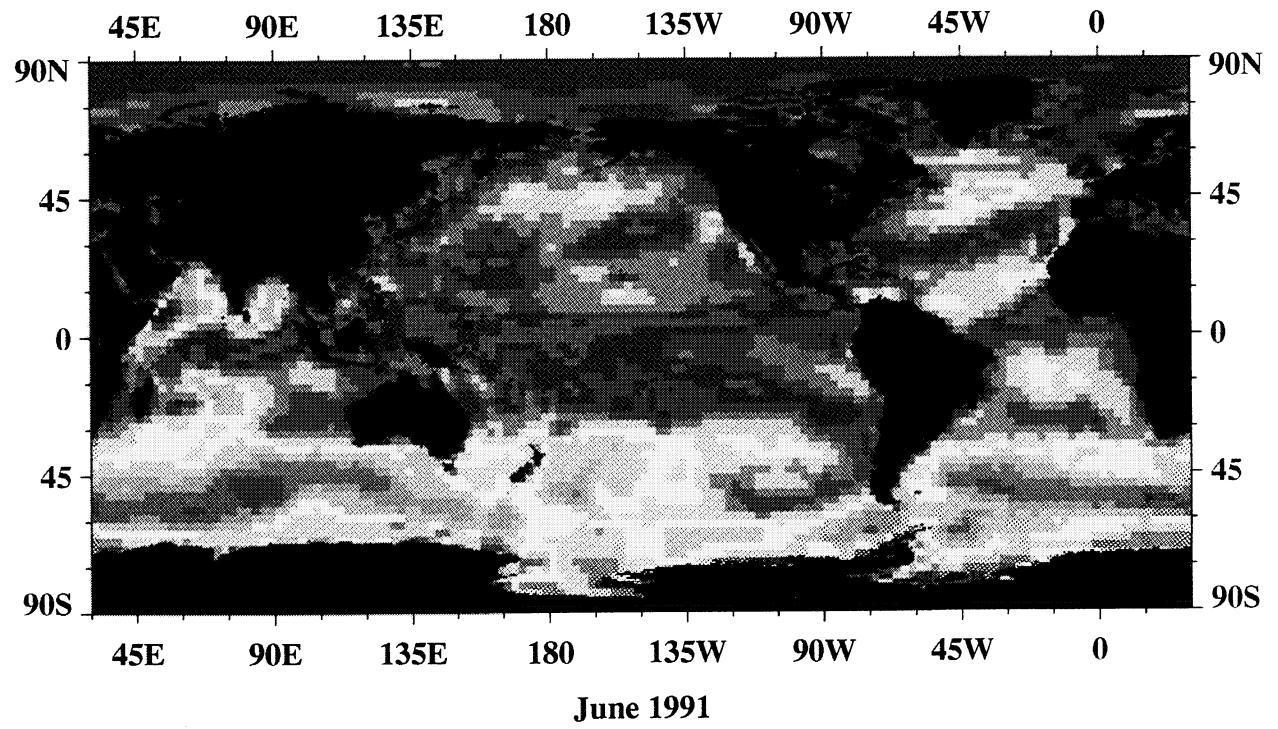
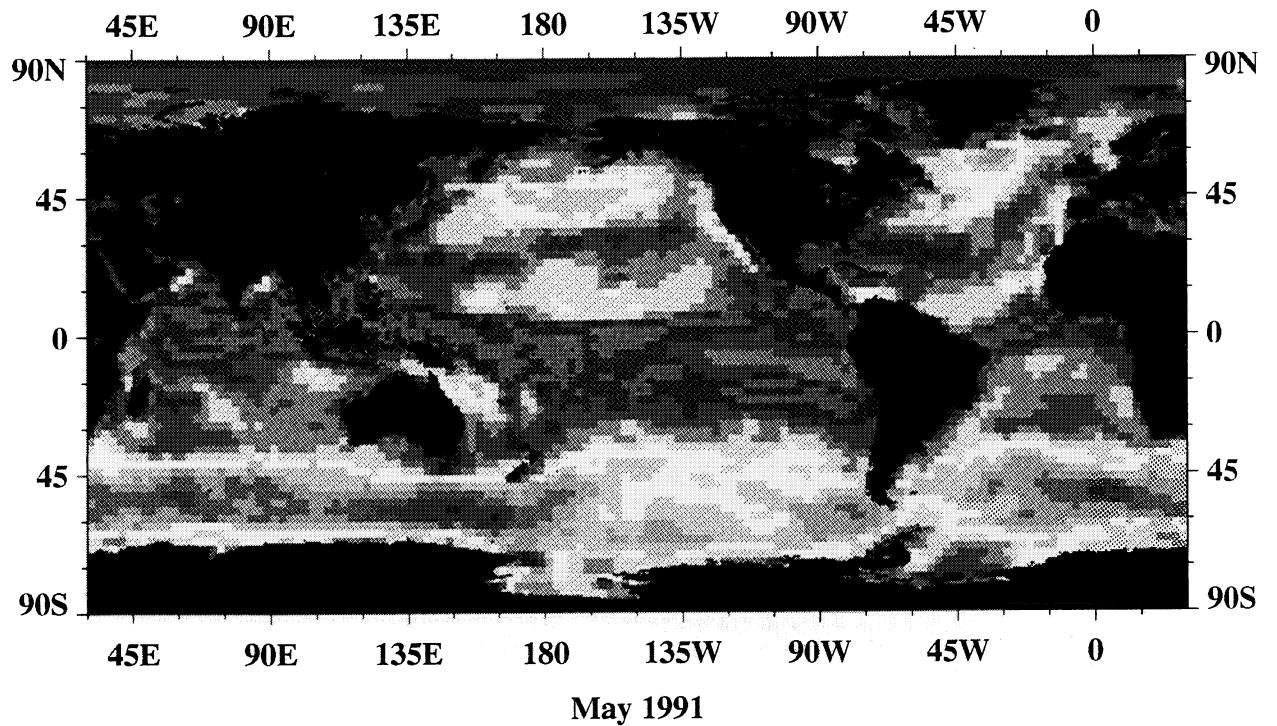


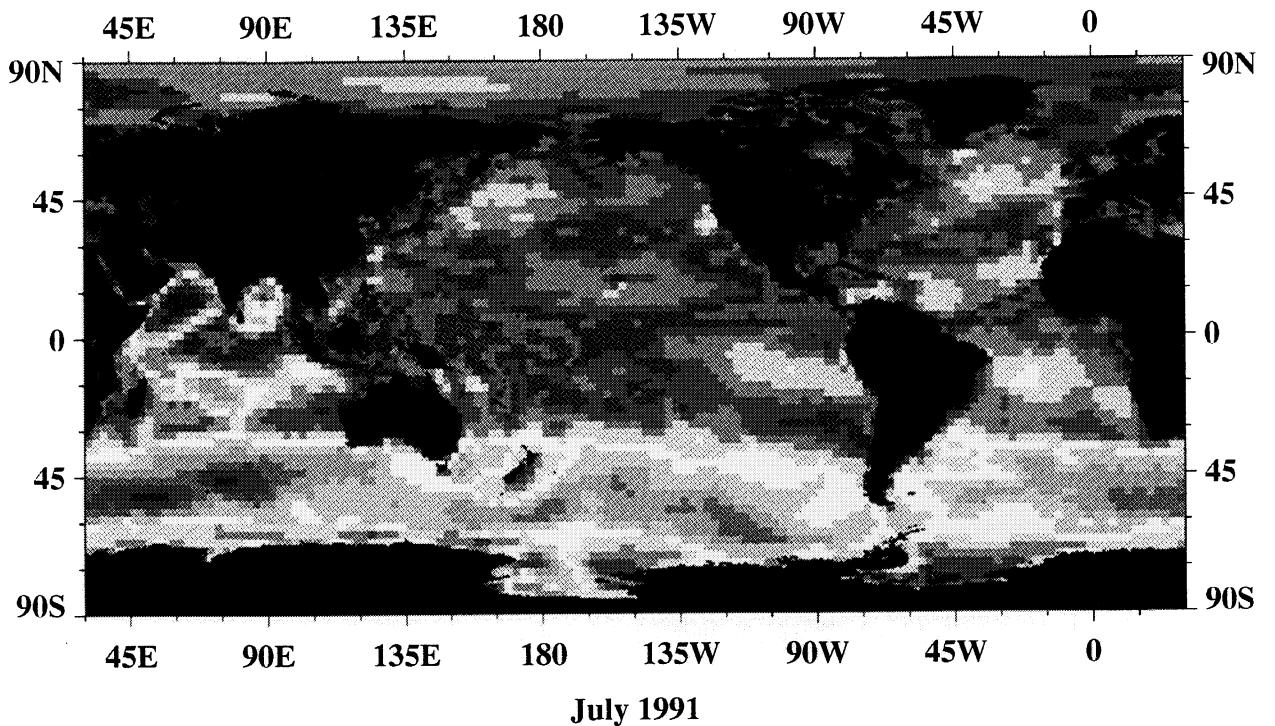
March 1991



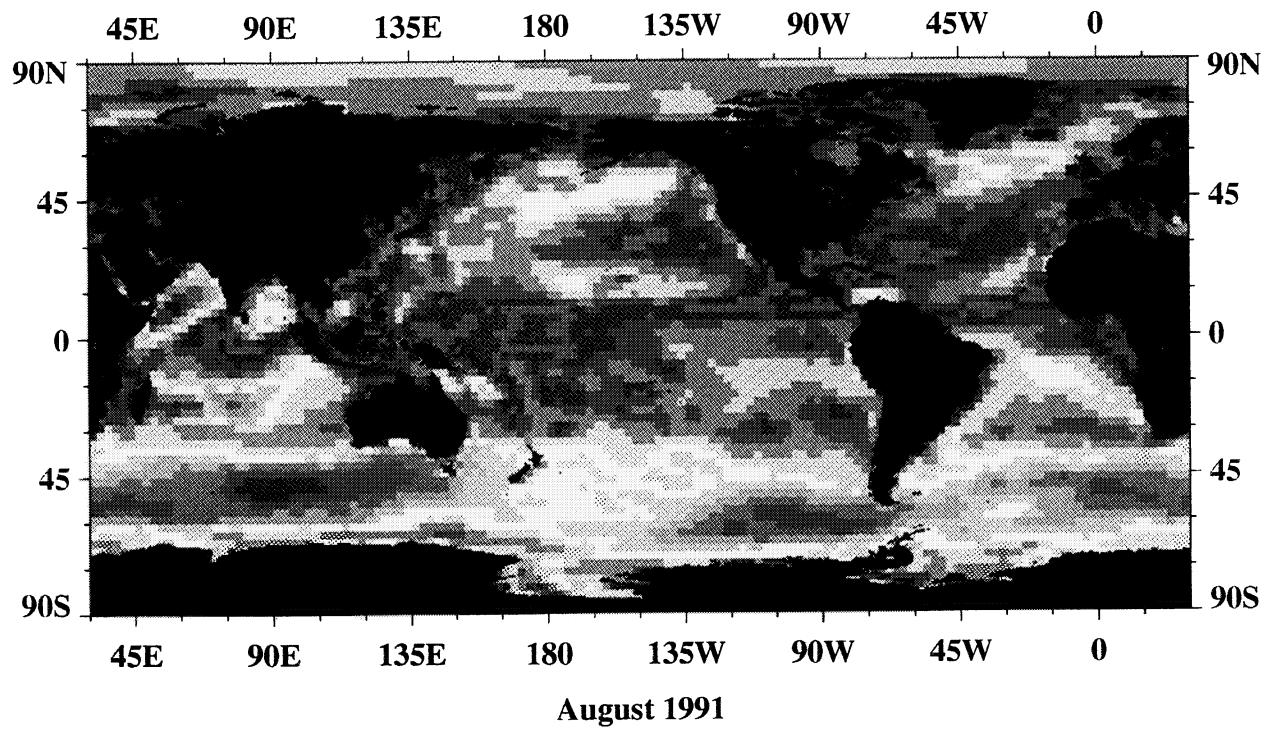
April 1991



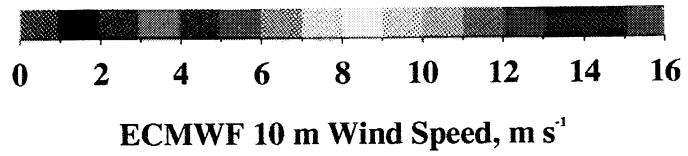


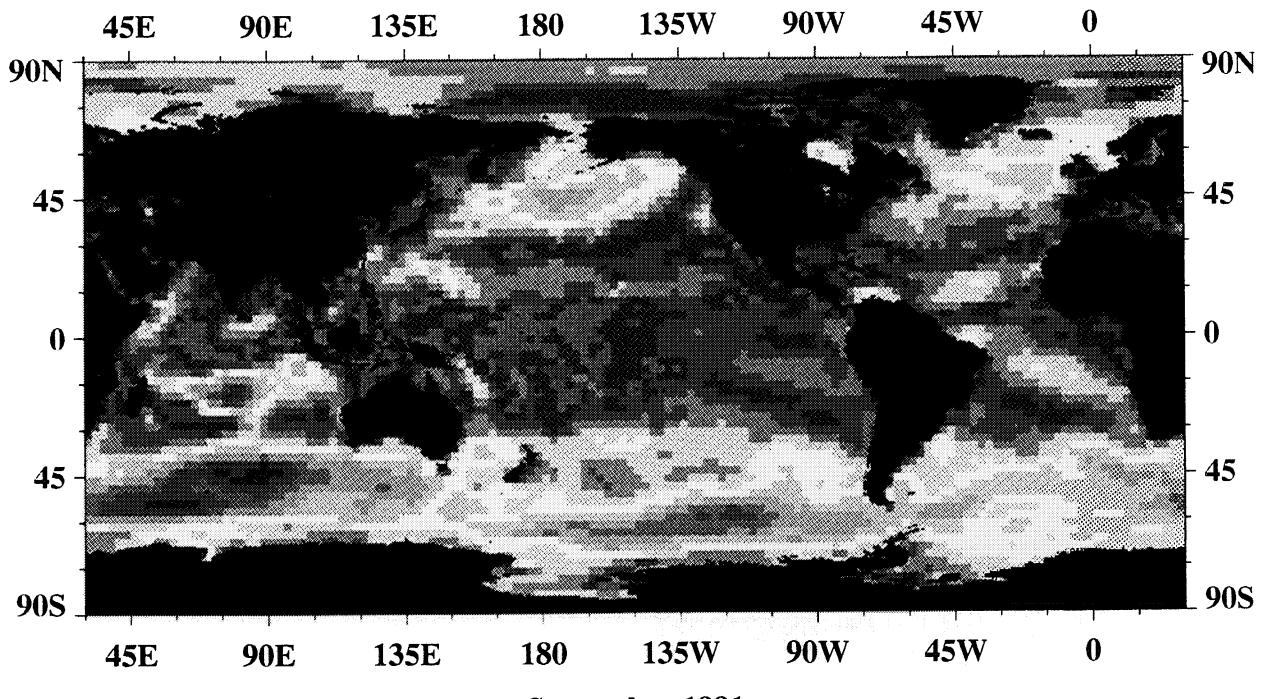


July 1991

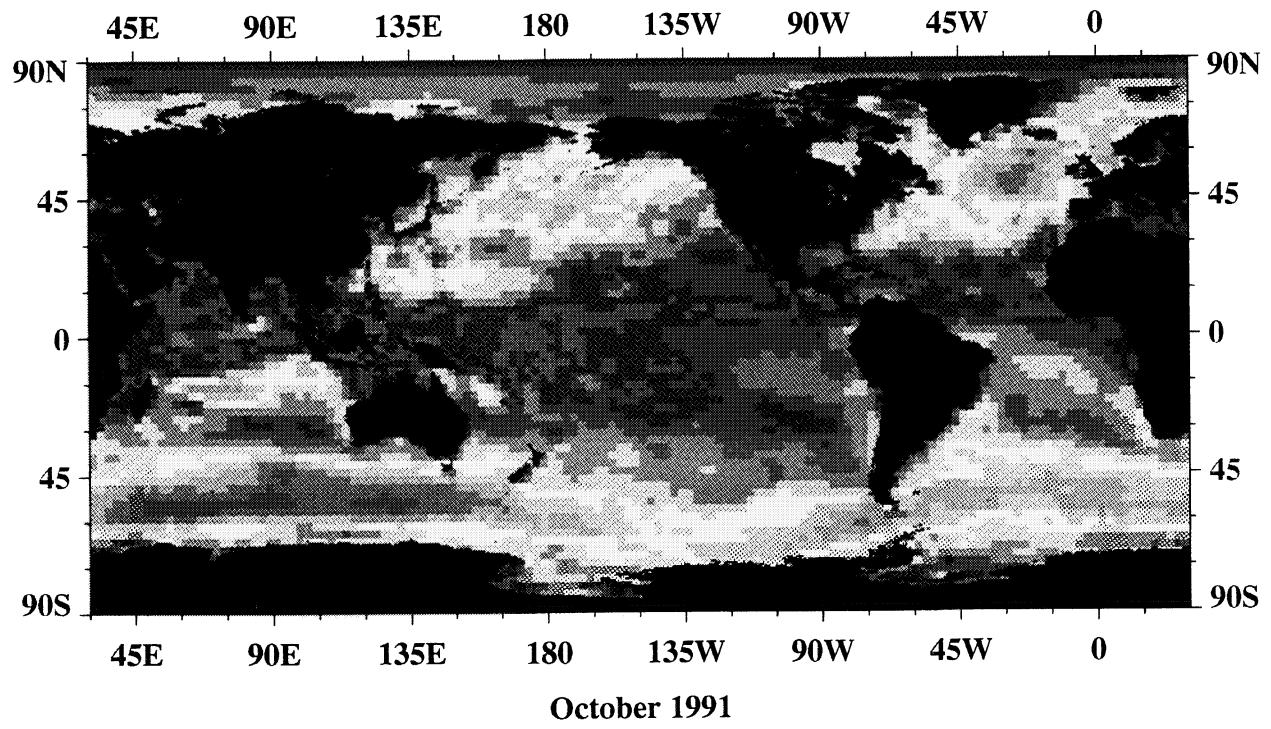


August 1991

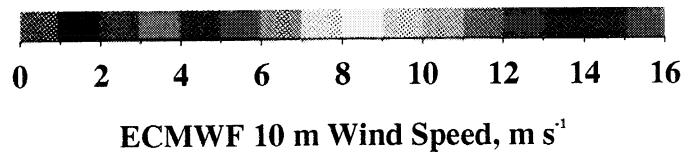


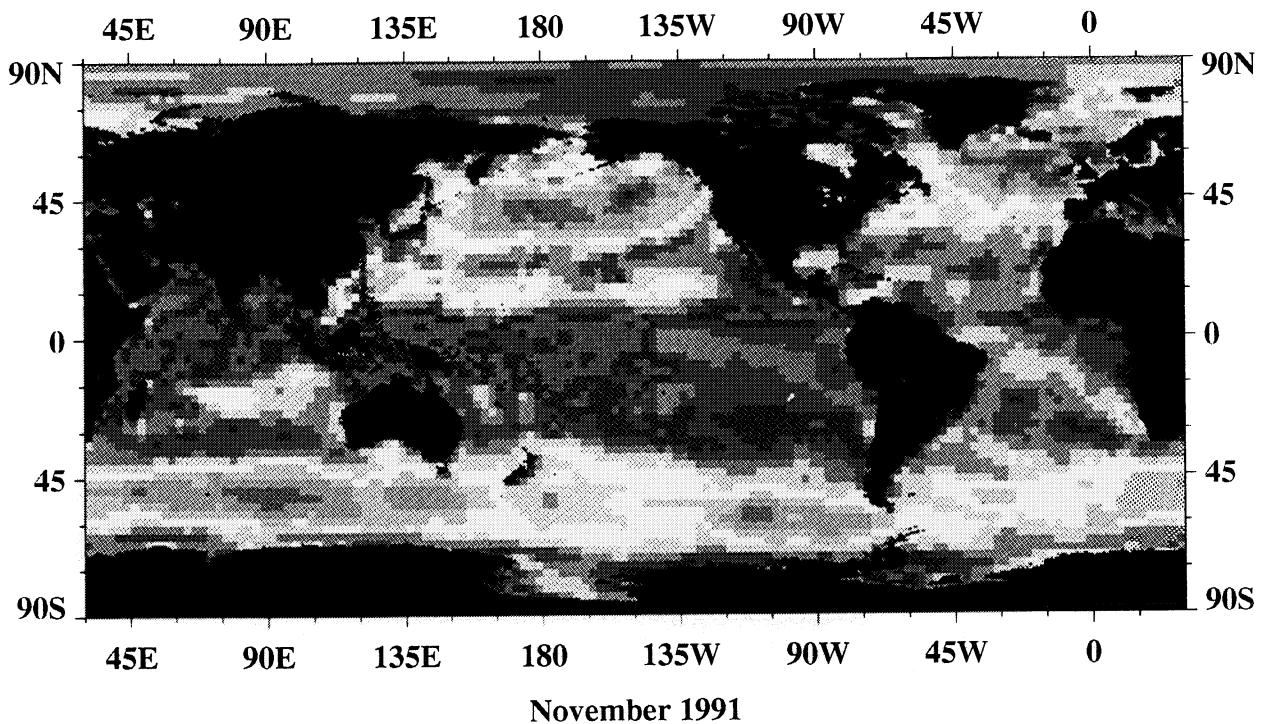


September 1991

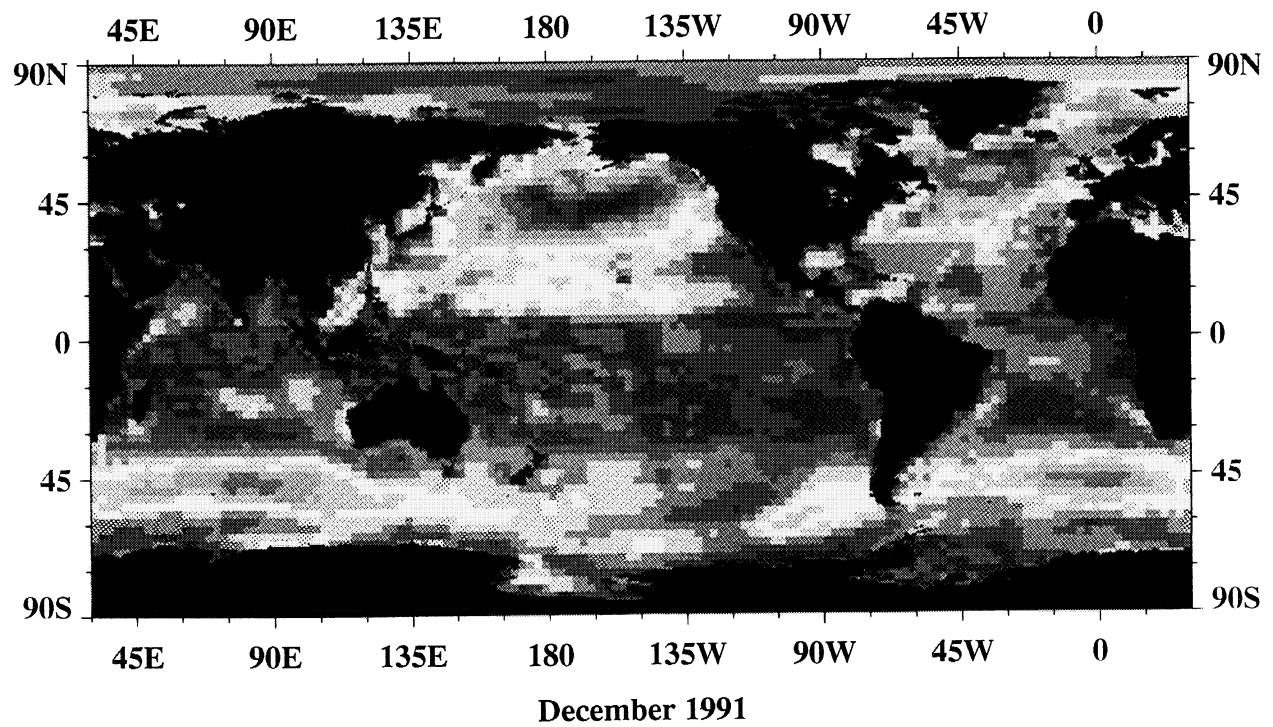


October 1991

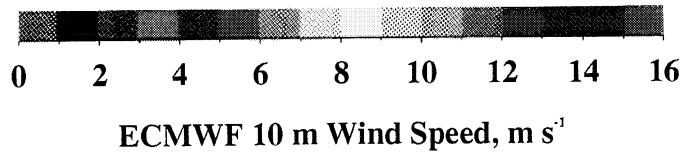




November 1991

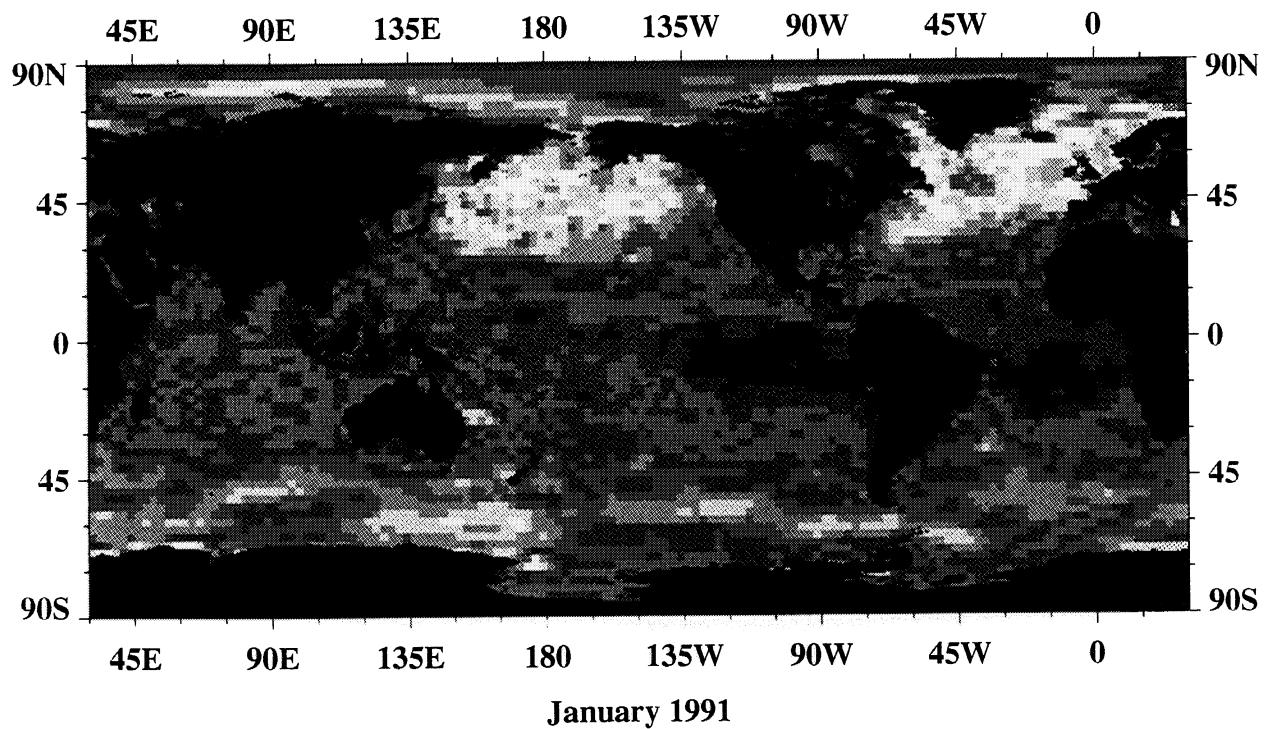


December 1991

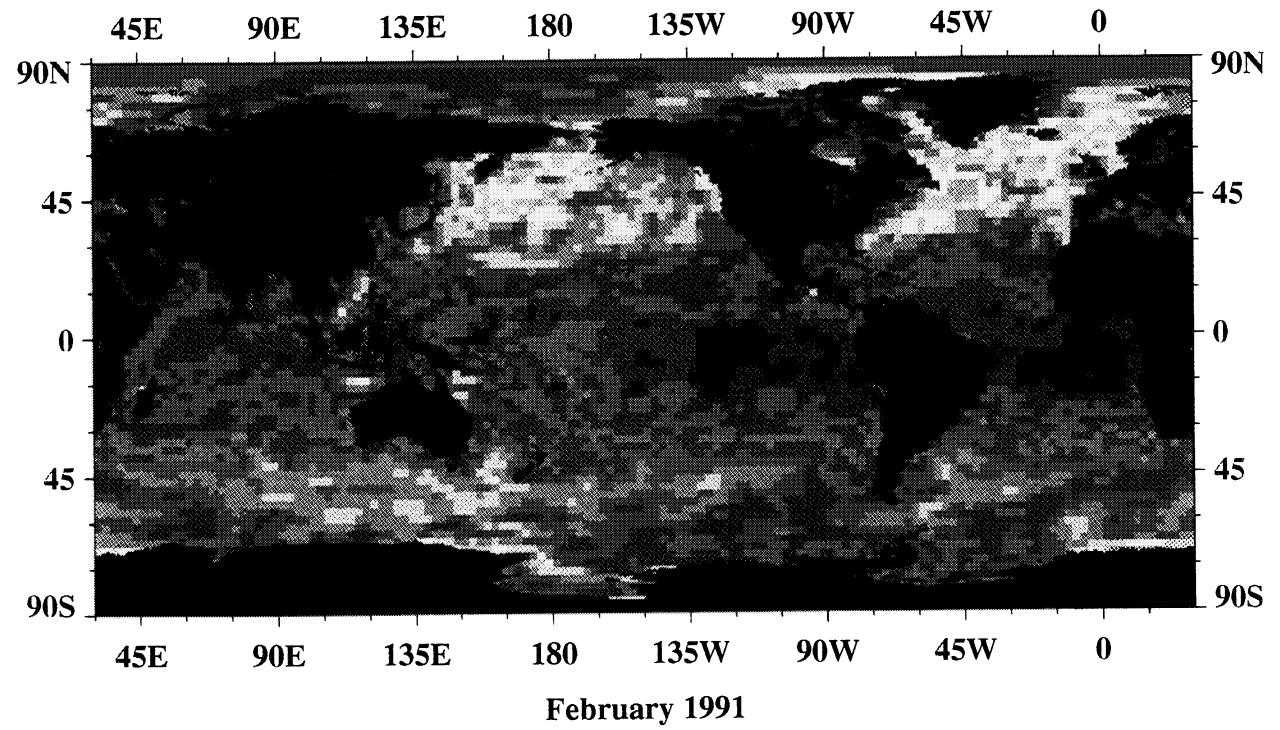


A14

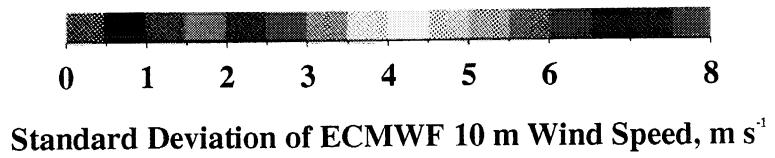
Monthly Standard Deviation of ECMWF Surface Wind Speed

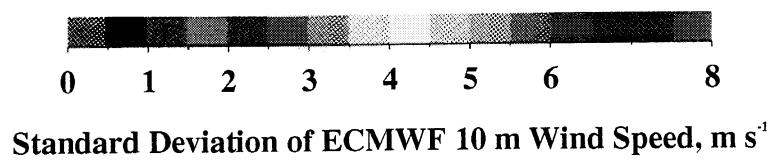
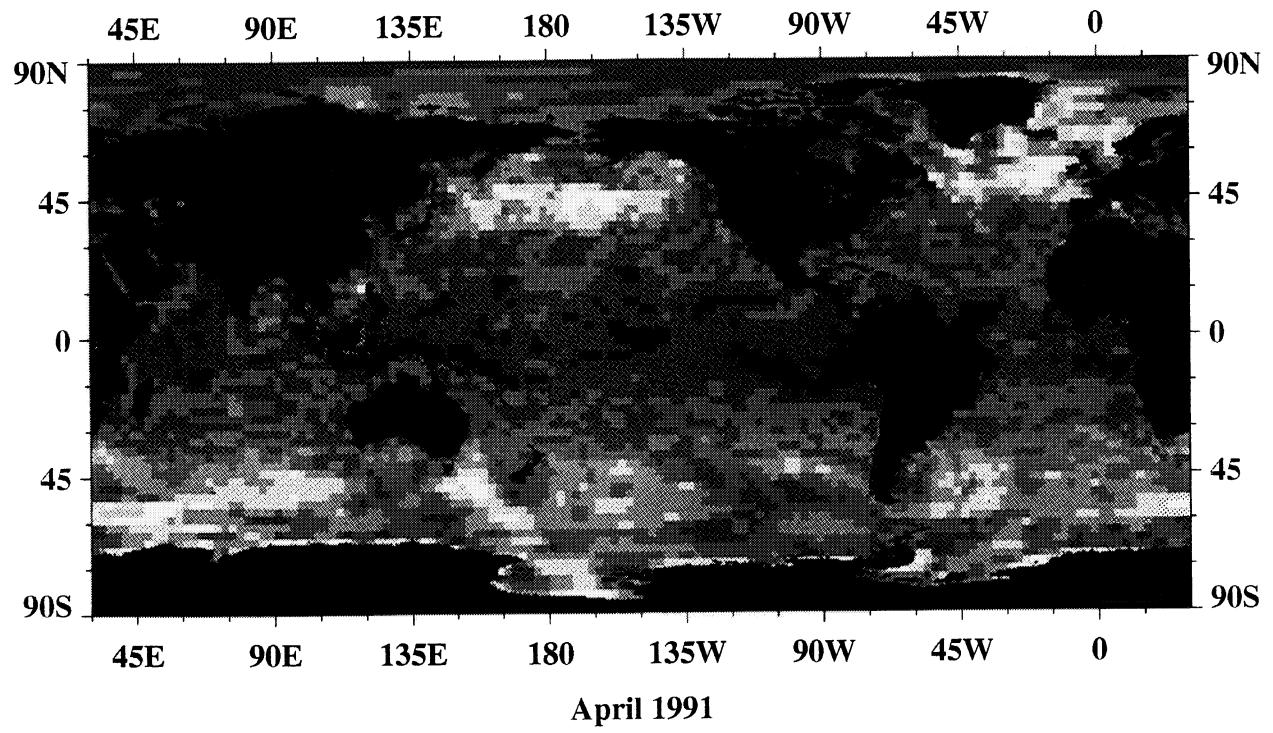
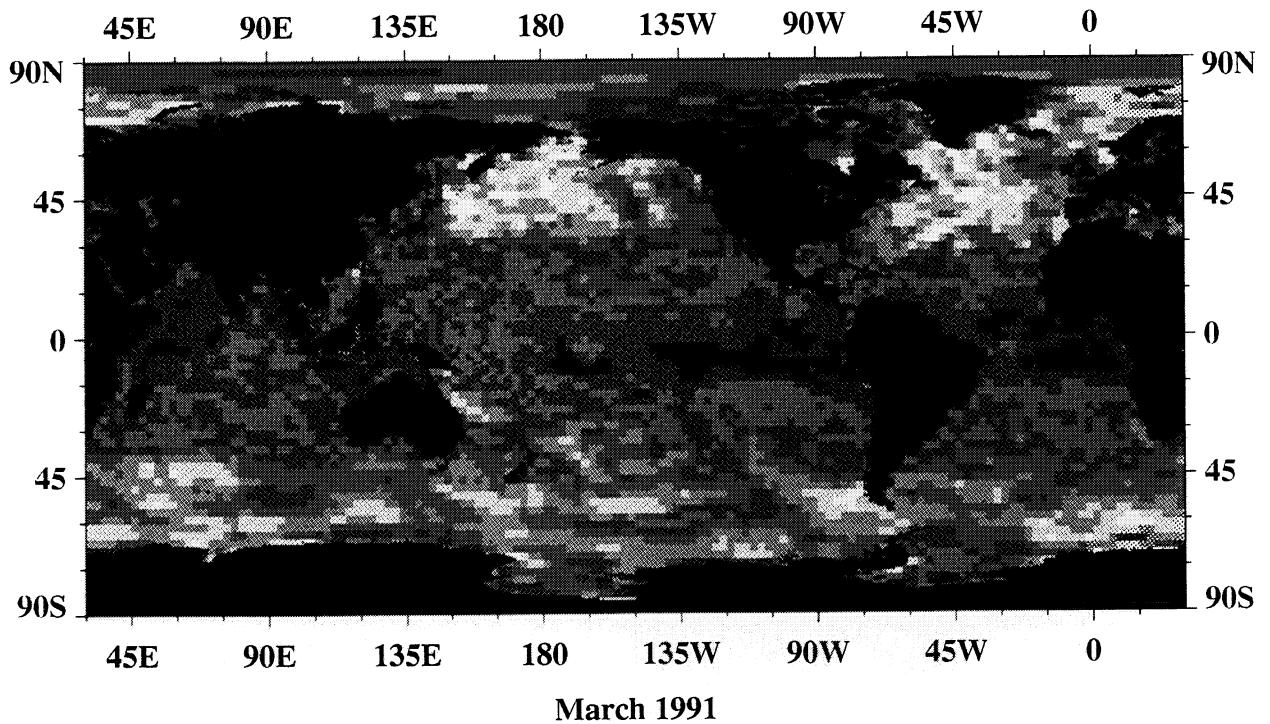


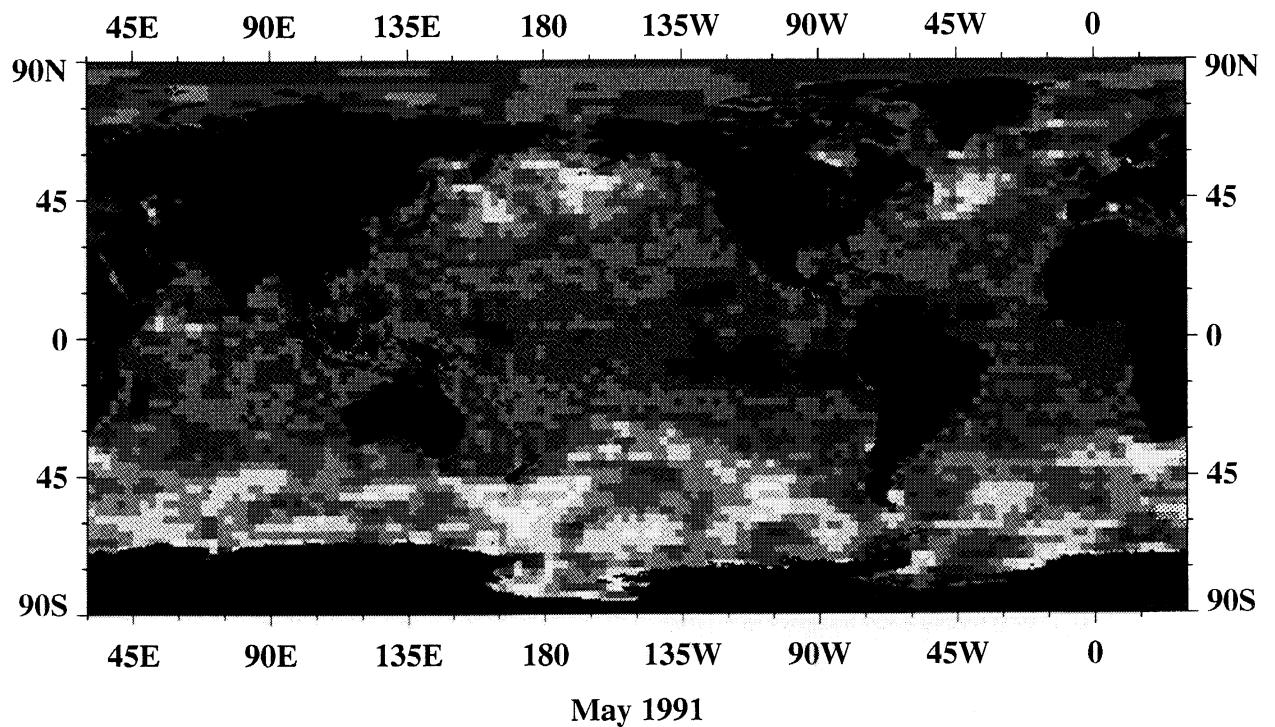
January 1991



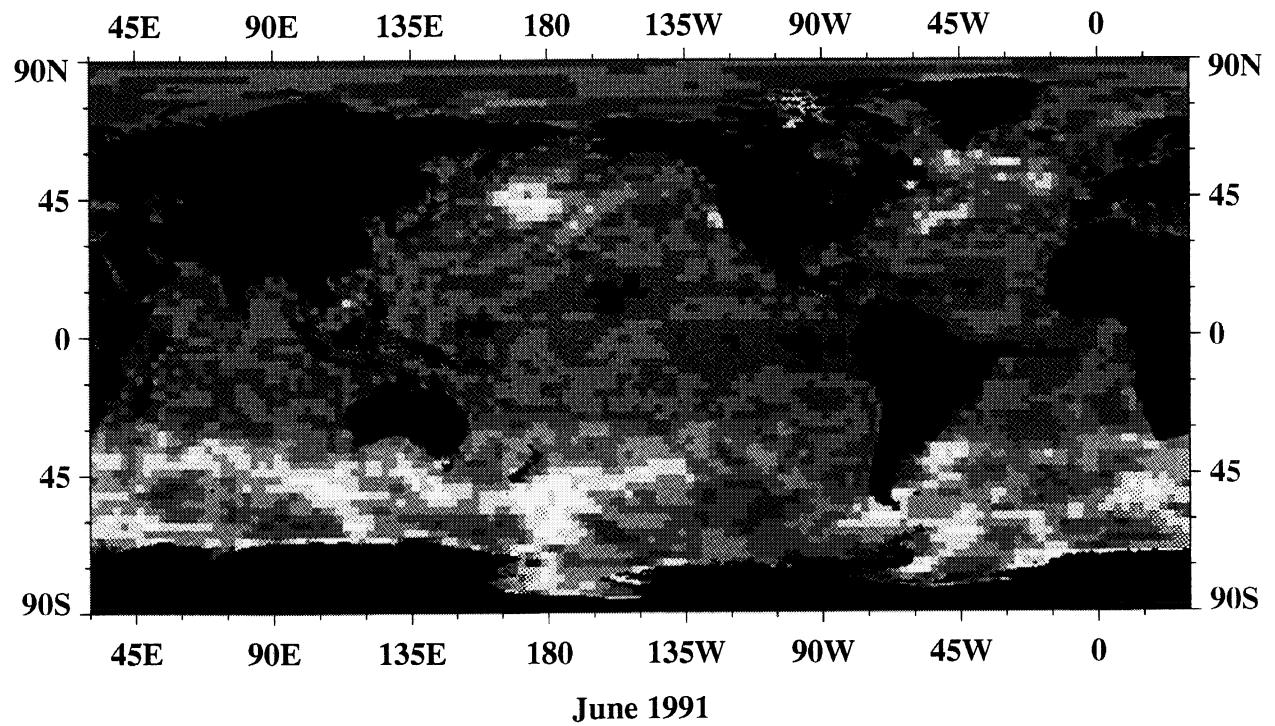
February 1991



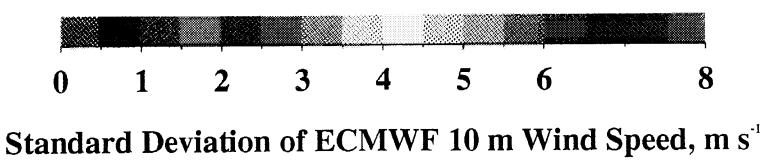




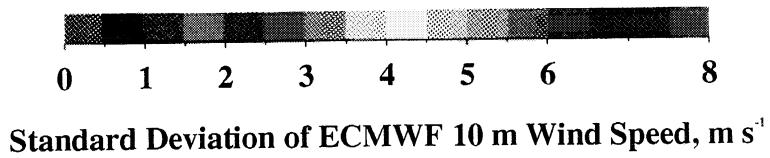
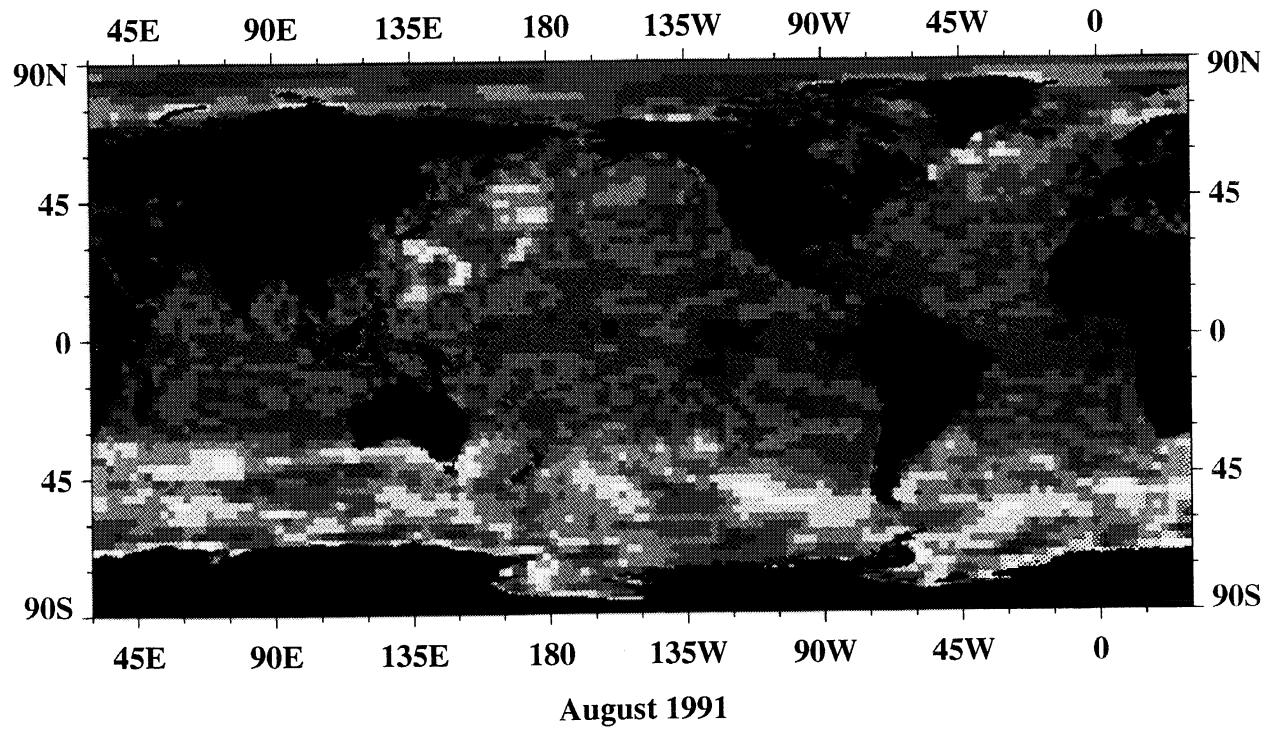
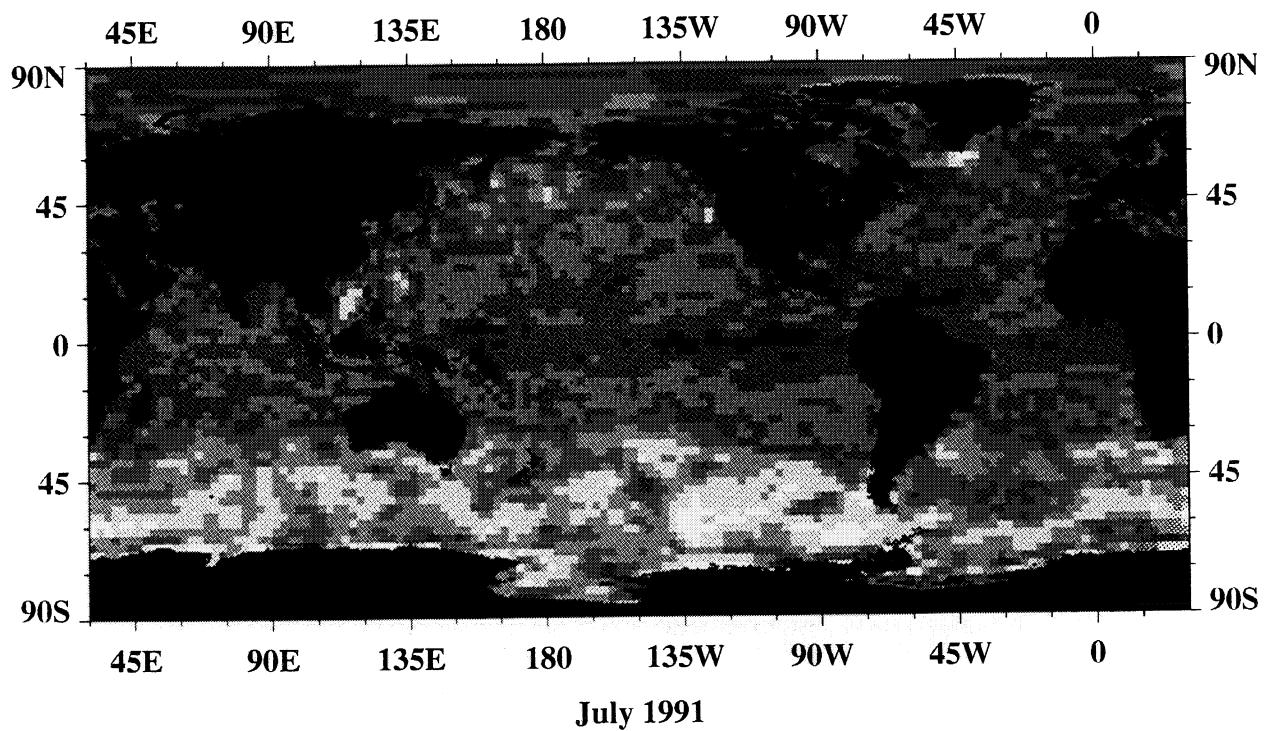
May 1991

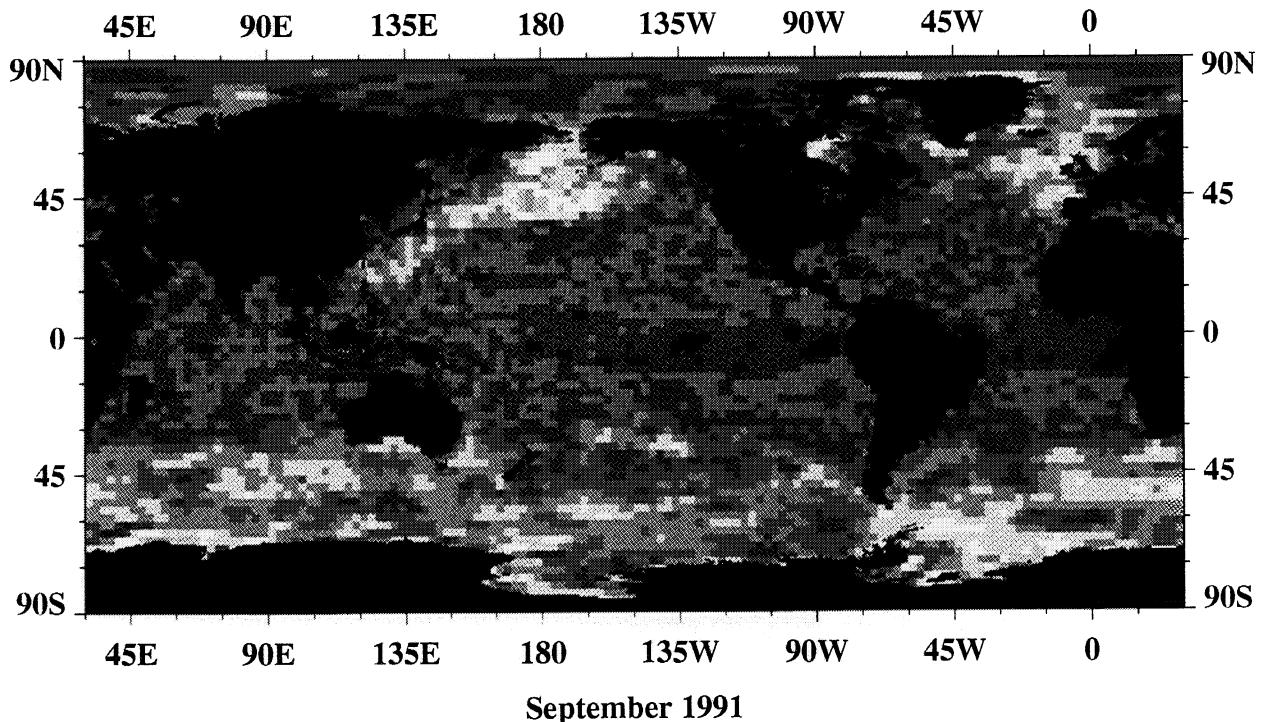


June 1991

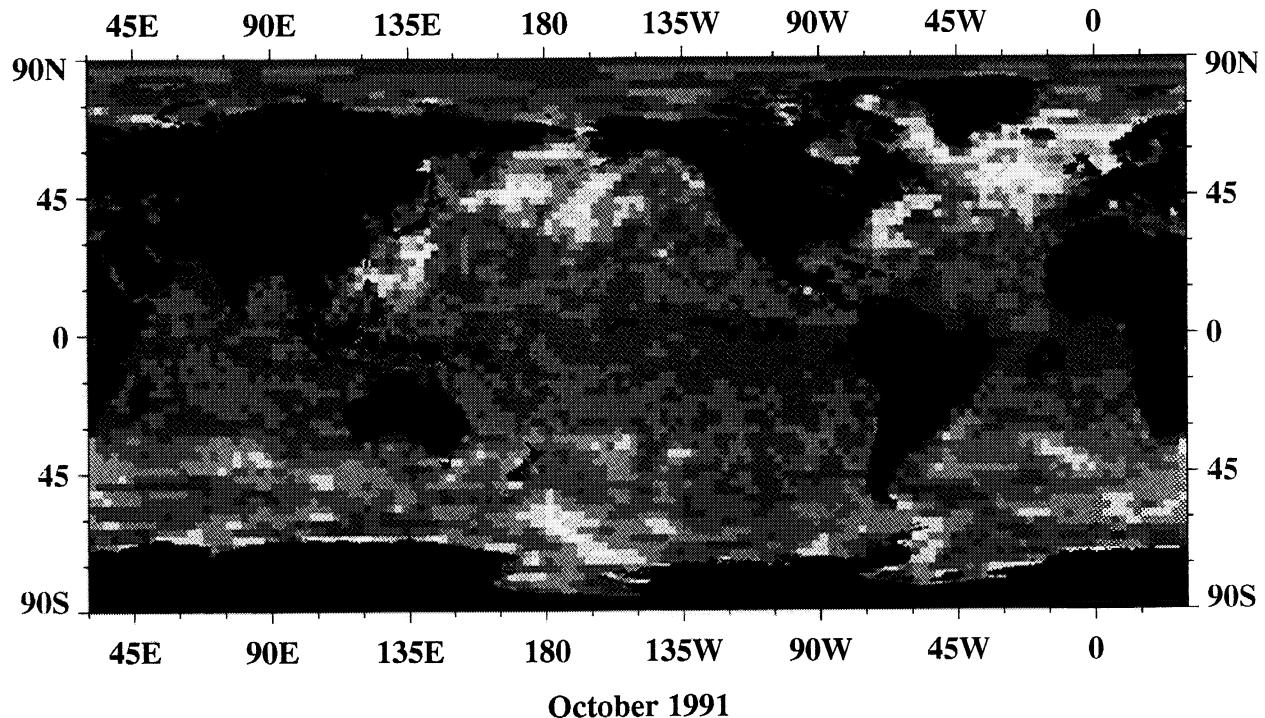


Standard Deviation of ECMWF 10 m Wind Speed, m s^{-1}





September 1991



October 1991

